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MVA celebrates 40 years of tourism industry. » PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Defense 'diverts' to Tinian

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Defense has selected Tinian as the preferred alternative for a divert airfield project in the CNMI.

» Military leaders call for stronger working relationship with CNMI

This follows years of protracted consultation with the local government, business community, and a environmental review process that prompted the U.S. Air Force to exclude fighter jets from the divert

See DEFENSE on Page 4

25 pct. Settlement Fund disbursements threatened

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The NMI Settlement Fund and the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres are in dispute over this month's 25 percent pension payment, some $1.2 million, for CNMI retirees.

The Fund essentially claims that money provided by the government for the Feb. 12 payment is unlawful and would not be disbursed unless the government obtains a court order to force the release of money.

But the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has fired back, arguing otherwise and calling on retirees to tell the Fund to stop "playing games" with their money.

The dispute appears to stems from Settlement Fund Trust's belief that the funds provided by the Saipan casino law for the 25 percent pension payment of retirees is the only source of funding, a position that the Torres administration has disagreed with in meetings between them.

See FUND on Page 4

Child injured in Susupe fire

A child was injured during a fire that broke out at an apartment in Susupe yesterday afternoon.

Emergency medical technicians treated the child of minor injury to his finger at the scene, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde.

Gersonde said arson investigators determined that the fire originated from the sofa and the cause was an incendiary material.

DFEMS received a call from the Department of Public Safety's 911 about a fire at an apartment near Mount Carmel School at 3:56pm.

Firefighters and medics from Susupe and Koberville Fire Stations responded to the scene located along Chinchulu Avenue. The fire was placed under control at 4:20pm.

Gersonde said investigators found

See CHILD on Page 4

Two masked firefighters enter the room at an apartment unit in Susupe where the fire broke out yesterday afternoon.

DEREK GERSONDE

INSIDE

LOCAL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's video teleconference room will be connecting Saipan and the rest of the CNMI to the rest of the world.

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Democratic: Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders
Republican: Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina

NATION

Hoping for survival in the South, a muddled field of Republican presidential contenders descended Wednesday on South Carolina, no closer to clarity about who can stand between Donald Trump and their party's nomination.

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Local

IN CASE OF BUSINESSMAN ALLEGEDLY DIAGNOSED WITH ALZHEIMER'S

Son fears for safety of his wife, children

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Saipan-based son of Byung Deuk Lee, a 73-year-old Korean businessman allegedly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and kept away from the rest of his family, has expressed concern for the safety of his wife and children.

In his declaration dated Feb. 4, 2016, Sang Hun Lee, 35, stated that he is also very concerned for the safety and wellbeing of his father.

Attorney David Banes filed San Hun Lee's declaration in Superior Court to support a motion for temporary restraining order.

On Tuesday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied the request of Byung Deuk Lee's wife, Koom Nye Kim, and their son, Sang Hun Lee, to issue a TRO to stop the elder Lee from handling the businesses on Saipan because he was losing his mind.

Sang Hun Lee said that, the morning of Feb. 4, 2016, his wife called him several times, saying that his cousin has been at their house in Garapan, knocking repeatedly on the door.

Sang Hun Lee and his mother, Koom Nye Kim, are suing Ji Sook Lee, who allegedly removed Byung Deuk Lee from a hospital in South Korea, where he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, kept him away from his family, then traveled to Saipan to control all of his businesses and property.

Ji Sook Lee is the half-sister of Sang Hun Lee and Young Shin Lee.

Sang Hun Lee claimed that he is a member of LC Rental Company LLC, and an officer of China Yanbian Foreign Economic & Technical Cooperation Corp.

Sang Hun Lee said his father has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive and memory impairments.

He said his father was hospitalized several times in 2015, but disappeared from the hospital in South Korea, where he was receiving care in November 2015.

Sang Hun Lee said that, on Feb. 3, 2016, he heard that his father had arrived on Saipan.

He said it was his father's first trip to the island after being removed from the Gimpo Hannuri Hospital against medical advice in November 2015.

San Hun Lee said in the morning of Feb. 4, 2016, he saw his father with defendant Ji Sook Lee, Ho Joon Joo, and his father's sister, entering Bank of Hawaii on Saipan.

According to San Hun Lee, Ho Joon Joo, an officer of the Korean Association, obtained powers of attorney for his father. He said his father did not understand the powers of attorney, could not remember signing it, and later revoked it.

San Hun Lee said that last month, defendant Ji Sook Lee showed up on Saipan with a document titled "Power of Attorney" that purported to give her broad authority over his father's business, including authority that his father does not actually have.

San Hun Lee said he is worried that his half-sister/defendant Ji Sook Lee and Ho Joon

See SON on Page 3

MVA celebrates 40 years of tourism industry

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority marked its 40 years of existence yesterday and it was celebrated with a proclamation signed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Present and past directors and board members and staff of MVA were joined by public and private partners yesterday to witness the proclamation signing that was read by various MVA staff.

"Today, 40 years later, our visitors authority continues to fulfill its mission to 'promote and develop the Northern Mariana Islands as a premier destination of choice for visitors from throughout the world while providing a maximum quality of life for our people,' and furthermore, to 'nurture and encourage cultural interchange and environmental sensitivity for visitors enjoyment and for our children's children,'" the proclamation read.

It also acknowledged the role tourism has in the CNMI's economy and MVA's contribution.

"In 1997, visitor arrivals of the Northern Mariana Islands peaked at 726,690. In Fiscal Year 2015, the tourism industry attracted 479,679 total visitors, contributing an estimated $424.4 million in direct impact and $636.5 million in indirect impact to the Northern Marianas economy, and a conservative estimate of $70.7 million in tax revenue," the proclamation said.

"Through its support of the tourism industry, the Marianas Visitors Authority helps create opportunities for employment, economic prosperity, international trade, and cross-cultural understanding," it added.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio thanked their partners in both public and private for their support. He also reiterated that tourism is the CNMI's sole economic driver and generates approximately 50 percent, if not more, of its tax dollars.

"So it goes without saying that tourism is—for both the public and private sectors—everyone's business. We need to live by these words every day because our economic survival and that of our community is dependent on it," Tenorio said.

Prior to the signing, MVA board chair Marian Aldan Pierce, who has been in the tourism industry as long as MVA, shared with the public a brief history and highlights of what the authority has done for tourism over the four decades.

"Tourism in the Northern Marianas officially began on Feb. 11, 1976, when Francisco C. Ada, our district administrator, signed the enabling legislation District Law 4-415, creating the Marianas Visitors Bureau," Pierce said

The '70s saw the opening of two former hotels now known as Fiesta Resort and Kanoa Resort. In the '80s, tourism in the CNMI reached out to the Japan and Korea market.

The '90s was considered as "the best and worst of times saw the need for market diversification following the Asian economic crisis. MVB became MVA in 1998. The years 2000 to 2010, saw the continued decline of the Japanese market, and the rising of the Chinese market with the various promotions and projects launched.

"Today, MVA is leading the charge in a full economy recovery from the industry woes that began in the late 1990s," Aldan-Pierce said.

The agency's very first director, JM Guerrero, also acknowledged the improvement of tourism over the years.

"It's gone a long way and I'm glad its expanding fast and more people are recognizing now the benefits of tourism, whereas before we had a hard time convincing people and the partners why they have to finance it," Guerrero said.

"One thing I personally like to see is more local people in key positions of the tourism industry," he added.

SON

From Page 2

Joo are trying to take control of his father's bank accounts of China Yanbian, a corporation owed by his parents.

San Hun Lee also alleged that his half-sister Ji Sook Lee has been taking money from restaurants owned by China Yanbian and money from tenants of a property maintained by LC Rental Company since her arrival on Saipan.

He said his half-sister has not issued receipts on paid bills, made any mortgage payments, or deposited any money in China Yanbian's accounts.

China Yanbian owns Seoul One Korean Restaurant and Shinsen Japanese Restaurant.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for Byung Deuk Lee, presented at the hearing on Tuesday a Jan. 13, 2016, medical report showing that Lee has a mild cognitive impairment, and which would improve with medication.

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DEFENSE

From Page 1

project.

It also comes just two months after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres called on the Air Force to withdraw plans for a divert airfield on Saipan in December. He called the military's repeated desire to acquire more lands on Saipan as counter to the legal foundations that set up the CNMI's relationship with the United States, which leased two-thirds of land on Tinian and the entire island of Farallon De Medinilla for defense purposes.

Anthony Crutchfield, deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii, and Joint Region Marianas Rear admiral Bette Bolivar met with Torres yesterday morning to share the news.

A "Record of Decision" formalizing the military's selection of a preferred alternative is expected in the coming months.

"There is an opportunity for us to have the divert on Tinian," said Torres in a press conference with Crutchfield and Bolivar. "We are here together to make that happen."

"Today was a great day for the CNMI and for Tinian," added Bolivar.

"This is a relationship that is just getting stronger," Crutchfield said. "We are trying to match concerns with what the [U.S. training] requirements are. This is an example that the two can meet."

Miranda A.A. Ballentine, the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy, also called U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) yesterday in Washington, D.C. to say the Air Force has selected Tinian as the preferred alternative for the divert field.

"I am sure that the Congressman looks forward to learning more once the final environmental impact statement is released and will continue to listen to the voices of his constituents and the Commonwealth government as the details of the Air Force's plans emerge," said Sablan's deputy communications director, Tina Sablan.

Over the last year, U.S. Air Force leaders have heavily advertised a "hybrid" option, to use both Saipan and Tinian airports, which they said would have lessened competing use problems with commercial planes and military tanker craft.

But the Commonwealth Ports Authority, who would have to lease land to the U.S. Air Force on Saipan, has repeatedly reiterated its position that divert be sited on Tinian.

Business leaders worried about the effects on Saipan's airport also supported the military's decision.

"That has always been our position," said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velman Palacios on the "Tinian-only" alternative.

"We have always maintained that," Palacios said. "We are glad that they have given Tinian that opportunity."

"I don't think the Air Force was doing enough for Saipan," added businessman Alex Sablan. "We didn't need more tank farms. We didn't need an apron and we didn't need a work facility that they would input."

"What we needed, in my view, was to harden both runways, so both runways could be used for international flights. That would have been an ultimate benefit for Saipan.

"Ultimately, we agreed that Tinian needed the international airport upgrades, the tank farm, and everything else, so hopefully, there is a joint-use agreement with the tank farm facilities so Tinian itself can welcome international flights," Sablan said.

'Sharing hardships'

Crutchield also disclosed he has received orders from the Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter to be the single point of contact for Defense.

Bolivar would be DoD's local representative, but military plans would "be coordinated" through Crutchfield.

He said this would delineate a lot of misinformation.

"You're the guy. You are going to speak for all of us," said Crutchfield, a three star general in the Pacific Command, said of the new direction.

"It may be the Air Force needs it. The Marines may need it. But the Pacific Command is the one giving them the orders."

Military tactical planners from the Marines or the Air Force would still visit to talk with the government but this would make it "not so confusing."

Turning point

When pressed, Crutchfield could not say exactly when the Defense Department decided to choose the "Tinian-only" option as the preferred alternative for the divert project.

Still, Crutchfield pointed to one "document in time."

"It really was your letter," Crutchfield said, turning to Torres, "that really sparked us." "I've read that letter several times, I've almost memorized it."

Crutchfield said the December letter made clear that the "CNMI has issues" and that it had "to be listened to and addressed." He also said the fact that the CNMI "was willing to work together" with the military, and extended that "olive branch" spurred the military to "pull this together."

"The CNMI is a strategic point for us," Crutchfield said. "We had to weigh the requirements we need to maintain that security and peace and balance with needs of the people here and their culture."

"When we did that, we realized that Tinian could do both," Crutchfield said.

Torres administration officials are hopeful the military's decision will reflect on other pending military proposal like the live-fire artillery, rocket, and mortar ranges they have proposed on Tinian, and the bombing range they have proposed on Pagan.

Administration officials believe the CNMI Covenant restricted military use of Farallon De Medinilla and the two-thirds of land to Tinian.

They are hopeful yesterday's announcement will reflect what the CNMI's founding fathers intended would be a joint-service air base on Tinian, meant for shared access with the Tinian people, as spelled out in the legal texts that were signed into effect with the Covenant.

The military's about-face over 30 years later—to propose a divert airfield on Saipan, use military leased land on Tinian for live-fire artillery and mortar ranges, and lease the entire island of Pagan, among others, have frustrated many in the Commonwealth, a territory who with Guam, has residents that serve in the military at three times higher the rate of those in the U.S. mainland.

Inos' legacy

While Crutchfield appreciated Torres' letter, Torres was continuing a position reiterated and stressed by late governor Eloy S. Inos, a position he also stressed over military live-fire ranges, when he called these proposals and "existential threat" counter to the agreements of the Covenant.

Inos passed away after a protracted battle with diabetes last Dec. 29.

"I would like to think that the late governor [Eloy] Inos would very pleased with the decision," said Office of the Governor attorney Wesley Bogdan, who has advised the late and current governor on military projects, when sought for comment yesterday.

"This is something he wanted," Bogdan said. "The late governor believed in the CNMI Covenant. He believed in its historical purposes and the appropriate use of CNMI property over on Tinian."

WELCOME TO NMC! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students from Japan's Daito Bunka University recently visited the Northern Marianas College as part of their cultural/educational field trip to the Marianas. Their campus tour was led by ASNMC president Keisuke Yoshida (in red).

FUND

From Page 1

In a statement yesterday, Joyce C.H. Tang, Settlement Fund Trustee, said the funds appropriated for the 25 percent pensions under the casino law, Public Law 18-56, have been "exhausted."

Tang said the trustee notified the late governor Eloy S. Inos in June 2015 of the impending problem, in quarterly reports and in follow-up communications.

She said, more recently, she wrote to Torres on Jan. 29 and Feb. 10, 2016, to request a meeting to identify an alternate funding source for the pension payments that "complies with NMI law."

"The Trustee has not received a response from the governor to this very important issue," Tang said. "The Settlement fund cannot disburse the 25 percent pension payment unless the government identifies properly appropriated funds that can be used to pay the 25 percent payment, or obtains a court order."

Tang said Torres has sent money to the Fund asking it to be used for the Feb. 12 pension payment, but that "this money was not from an authorized appropriations and for this reason cannot be used" to make payments.

"The Settlement Fund will hold all such money until the government identifies properly appropriated funds that can be used to pay" the pensions, or obtains a court order authorizing the disbursement of funds received, she said.

But in a statement yesterday, the Torres administration asserts that the government has always been and continues to be in compliance with the law on this issue.

A representative from the attorney general has sat in on meetings between the Governor's Office and the Fund Trust, according to administration sources.

The CNMI government has continued to support and has "consistently upheld its responsibilities to fund the full retirement benefits of its retirees," the administration said. "This misunderstanding of Settlement Fund Trustee Ad Litem Joyce Tang on this matter is troubling and raises concerns over her ability to properly provide the full benefits for our many retirees who have worked hard to earn it."

"In our many meetings we have asked Ms. Tang to continue to disburse the funds we have provided her to make full payments to the retirees."

The retirees have struggled long enough over the past years and should not be made to worry about their financial situation because of incorrect interpretations of the law by the Settlement Fund and its Trustee Ad Litem, the Torres administration said, adding that the government is committed and has worked tirelessly to meet its obligations to our retirees.

"The fact of the matter is government is current and lawful with its payments," the administration said.

"I urge all retirees and settlement fund members to contact Ms. Joyce Tang and ask her to stop playing games with your pensions. The number for their office is 322-3863/67/69. Call them today and tell them that you have earned your pension and she should not reduce or hold back your benefits," Torres said in the statement.

CHILD

From Page 1

that a bedroom on the second floor had severe heat damage and moderate smoke damage.

Last Jan. 20, a car caught fire in front of Mount Carmel School in Chalan Kanoa, while another fire broke out at a shipping container at the old dumpsite in Puerto Rico. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Businessman files racketeering suit vs ex-DPL secretary

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Korean businessman and his former company filed yesterday in federal court a racketeering lawsuit against former lawmaker and Department of Lands secretary Oscar M. Babauta and several others who allegedly conspired to steal millions of dollars from him for his hotel resort and casino project on Saipan.

KSA Corp. and Il Hwan Kim are suing Babauta, former DPL employee Ramon S. Salas, Hun Jin An, Jeong Eun Taek, Joann P. Hensley, and 10 unnamed co-defendants pursuant to Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) and other causes of action.

KSA Corp. and Kim, through counsel Pamela Brown, are suing the defendants for RICO violation, conspiracy to violate RICO, fraud, and for aiding and abetting a fraud.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to contact Babauta and other defendants for comments.

The plaintiffs asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold the defendants liable to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

According to Brown, from December 2006 to April 2014, the defendants conspired to steal millions of dollars from plaintiffs through wire fraud, mail fraud, forgery, theft, and extortion.

Brown said Kim came to Saipan as a tourist on Dec. 16, 2006 and decided that Saipan would be an ideal location for a tourist destination investment, which he expected to finance from his own assets in the amount between $30 million and $50 million.

During this time, Kim met An, who assured him that he would assist him in making his investment into a resort hotel and amenities.

An was the chief executive officer of a tourist company on Saipan and claimed that he was involved in many other business enterprises.

In 2006, An introduced Kim to Taek, who he said had lived on Saipan for over 30 years.

An claimed that Taek enjoyed a very close relationship with local government officials, including the mayor.

Kim did not speak or read English so he welcomed the assistance of An and Taek.

An and Taek explained how the financing and permitting of Kim's project would be handled by them since they knew all of the key players and would need money to grease the wheels of the process.

An and Taek instructed Kim to wire transfer all of the funds for the project to them at the San Jose Market and they would then handle the cash for the project.

Brown said An and Taek introduced Kim to the then-governor, the then-mayor of Saipan, and many other government officials, including Salas, and An's wife, Hensley.

An and Taek instructed Kim to first invest $100,000 in an Internet café operation called KS PC in order to establish himself in the community.

Either both An and Taek or one of them, owned KS PC.

When Kim returned to Korea, An called him and told him that KS PC was losing money and said he had a buyer that would pay $50,000 for it.

The buyer, however, determined that KS PC Internet café was located in an economic dead zone and offered only $20,000 for Kim's $100,000 investment.

In February 2007, Kim returned to Saipan to commence his resort destination project. Upon arrival, An and Taek asked for payment of $5,000 for incorporation documents for KSA Corp.

Kim paid the amount.

After organizing KSA and opening an office, An and Taek took Kim to a parcel of government-owned property in San Antonio, which Taek explained was for lease and that he had already spoken to then DPL employee Salas regarding it.

Kim returned to Korea and established a KSA office there to conduct business on the Saipan project and to have Korean engineers and architects design the hotel resort project.

On June 18, 2007, An and Taek called Kim in Korea to inform him that since he and KSA were "special investors" that the ground breaking was planned by the CNMI government prior to negotiation of the permitting for KSA's hotel/casino resort project.

The following day, Kim returned to Saipan, which was when Taek and An contacted him regarding a ground-breaking ceremony with the governor and other government dignitaries on June 22, 2007.

Concerned about his immigration status, Kim asked how he could obtain a visa. Taek told him that with a $150,000 deposit he and a bank could handle the arrangements for his investor visa.

On June 25, 2007, on recommendation of An and Taek, Kim opened a KSA business account at the Bank of Saipan in order to deposit funds necessary for an investor visa.

Taek told Kim that in order to expedite the investor visa that he should wire transfer the funds to him at the San Jose Market so that Taek could deposit it into the bank.

On Aug. 1, 2007, DPL contacted Kim to proceed with the lease agreement. Kim asked Salas how long KSA had to get financially organized KSA's project and construct his resort.

Salas told him that KSA had two years from the date of the execution of the lease agreement.

Kim signed the lease agreement despite wanting to have it thoroughly reviewed by his attorneys in Korea based on Taek's assurances that everything was fine with the lease agreement.

Under the terms of the lease agreement, KSA was to pay $2,500 in rent to the CNMI government, specifically DPL. In total, KSA paid $8,160 to DPL.

After executing the lease agreement, An contacted Kim regarding the likely passage of the casino law, making casino gambling legal on Saipan.

An and Taek convinced Kim to change the scope of KSA's project from just a resort hotel with amenities to a casino resort operation.

Brown said that in Septem-

See BUSINESSMAN on Page 6

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BUSINESSMAN

From Page 5

ber 2007, Taek and a team of CNMI government officials traveled to Korea to verify Kim's and KSA's financial capabilities for the project.

Upon return to the CNMI, Taek told Kim that he personally gave the governor a report regarding KSA's financial capabilities.

Upon completion of the casino resort project blue prints and plans, Kim submitted them to DPL.

On Dec. 3, 2007, KSA got its construction permit for the project and in January 2008, KSA commenced construction of its casino resort.

In February 2008, Taek again requested more funds from Kim for project expenses. Kim went to the Bank of Saipan to withdraw funds from KSA's account.

At the bank, Kim was informed that the account had zero balance.

Asked about the zero balance, Taek told Kim that the funds were depleted in order to begin KSA's project and assured Kim that he had receipts for all expenditures.

Taek then stopped communicating with Kim, which led to his replacement as an officer in KSA with Hensley.

An then contacted Kim regarding DPL's concern that the project construction should commence.

Since it had been commenced, Kim could not understand what DPL wanted that was not being done at the project site on KSA's casino resort project.

An called Kim in Korea to inform him that KSA's office was burglarized and all of the furniture and equipment were stolen. KSA had to replace all of it at large expense.

Fencing surrounding KSA's project construction site was also stolen and had to be replaced in order to comply with DPL's requirement.

Kim had KSA funds wired to An at the San Jose Market to replace the stolen equipment, furnishing, and fencing in order to continue the project.

In June 2008, An contacted Kim to inform him that KSA's leasehold was cancelled for failure to make payments on the lease and for failing to secure construction permits.

An told Kim that in order to restore the lease agreement, DPL wanted a consulting contract for the project.

In September 2008, Kim met with Salas and executed a consulting contract for which KSA paid $5,000 per month.

Kim wire-transferred KSA's funds to An at the San Jose Market to pay Salas.

On Oct. 16, 2009, An called Kim in Korea to inform him that the governor would consider restoring KSA's lease agreement for KSA's hotel/casino resort project for $140,000.

Kim wire-transferred the amount to An at the San Jose Market for An's payment to Salas allegedly for the governor.

Brown said on information and belief, neither An nor Salas ever paid the governor the $140,000 to restore KSA's lease agreement.

Brown said KSA's lease agreement for the San Antonio parcel for its casino resort project was not restored.

In March 2010, An again contacted Kim explaining that, according to Babauta, KSA should change its name and return to operating on Saipan in order for it to be given a lease for land in the Marpi area, on which to construct its casino resort project.

Utilizing the blueprints for the casino resort project originally negotiated for San Antonio, KSA was eager to commence the project. In May 2010, it re-established its office on Saipan and changed its corporate name to IH Corporation.

An and Hensley handled all of the purported negotiations with Babauta and Salas for the lease agreement.

After five months, An called Kim in Korea to inform him that Babauta and Salas were ready to proceed with the lease agreement for KSA's hotel/casino resort project but that KSA must pay $150,000 for the land lease.

Brown said Babauta and Salas demanded that KSA again change its corporate name prior to execution of the lease, which KSA accommodated by changing its name from IH Corp. to Leasure Planner Corporation.

KSA sent funds to An and Hensley for payment to DPL for the land lease.

Upon Kim's return to Saipan a few months later, he learned that KSA's lease agreement for the Marpi land had again been cancelled and that KSA's office on Saipan was closed.

KSA and Kim abandoned the casino resort project and left Saipan.

On Feb. 7, 2012, Kim returned to Saipan and began to investigate what happened to the hundreds of thousands of dollars that he and KSA had sent to An, Taek, and Hensley that were demanded by DPL agents, including Babauta and Salas for land leases for its hotel/casino resort projects.

Brown said Kim discovered that the bank account was depleted even though he was the sole signatory on the account and had never executed any checks from this account.

Brown said bank records evidenced that all of the checks had a forge signature of Kim on it which were each allegedly forged by Taek, An, or Hensley.

Brown said none of the checks reflected DPL or the CNMI Treasury as the payee and none of the checks reflected U.S. Department of Homeland Security as the payee.

Brown said that, in 2010, a competitor for the San Antonio land lease obtained KSA's blueprints and construction plans for its casino resort project from DPL personnel, which was either Babauta, Salas, or both.

In June 2013, An and Hensley telephoned Kim to inform him that DPL was again interested in reviving KSA's hotel/casino project on the same land in San Antonio.

When Kim returned to Saipan on June 13, 2013, An and Hensley blamed Taek for all of the actions taken to defraud KSA and Kim.

Brown said based on the statements of An and Hensley and his desire to recoup his prior losses, Kim again allowed An and Hensley to assist him again.

On June 18, 2013, Kim gave $35,000 to An and Hensley for payment to DPL for a land lease on the same San Antonio land.

On Hensley's instructions, Kim went to the DHS Application Services Center in Garapan to submit a E2 CNMI investor petition as well as to pay the processing fee of $325.

On Oct. 3, 2013, DPL cancelled KSA's casino resort project and land lease proposal for the San Antonio property without any basis for its actions.

Salas again came to Kim to convince him that he could assist KSA in obtaining a land lease for property in Marpi, but Kim no longer believed any of the co-conspirators' intentions or lies.

On May 21, 2014, Kim received an I-797 form from DHS informing him that his E2C was denied for failure to answer the request for evidence sent to Hensley on Jan. 17, 2014.

On July 3, 2014, after seeking legal services regarding denial of his E2C, Kim departed the CNMI for Japan.

The following day, Kim attempted to return to further his pursuit of legal action against Taek, An, Hensley, Babauta, and Salas, but was detained at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport by DHS.

DHS interviewed Kim and determined that he had over stayed his immigration status and deported him from the U.S. with a 10-year bar for reentry.

Brown said Kim is attempting to have his 10-year reentry bar lifted so that he can return to prosecute this action.

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JKPL VTC room connects Saipan to the world

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's video teleconference room will be connecting Saipan and the rest of the CNMI to the rest of the world, according to Northern Marianas College acting president David J. Attao and NMC information technology department director Jonathan Liwag.

The VTC room, an $11,000 project funded by Hyatt Regency Saipan, formally opened yesterday. Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa and his staff, House Speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan), Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), and Reps. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), George Camacho (R-Saipan), Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan, and other government personnel attended the opening.

JON PEREZ

Joten Kiyu Public Library acting director Erlinda C. Naputi, third right, joins Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, sixth left, House Speaker Ralph Demapan, Northern Marianas College acting president David J. Attao, third left, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, seventh right, and Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan, fifth right, in the ribbon-cutting ceremony formally opening the JKPL video teleconference room.

Nishikawa said the money came from the proceeds they raised in Hyatt's annual charity golf tournament. "This is our way of helping the community that has supported us for 35 years."

The office of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also donated $5,000 worth of equipment, while NMC's IT department, with the help of network specialists Jerome Ortiz and James Deleon Guerrero, assisted JKPL's ITC department in setting up the VTC room.

Attao said the VTC room is a collaboration of various agencies and individuals with the help of a private company. "Collaboration is one of the hardest thing to get, nothing can be accomplished when the team is not working together. Thanks to a lot of individuals, this project now connects us to the world."

"It did not only linked the islands but it also connected the CNMI to the rest of the world. It has put the library on the world map. We are maximizing the use of technology so we are represented in every facet of the world. It connects us to the rest of the world," he added.

Liwag, who made a brief presentation of how the VTC works, said Saipan is not far behind as the system also uses the same Polycom technology used by University of Hawaii. Polycom is a company that develops video, voice, and communication technology.

"It can connect to different platforms. It can be used not only for communication but also for teaching and instruction. I even conducted one of my class at NMC when I was in Hawaii," said Liwag.

"It lessens the gap of geographical borders where you could communicate with others, hold meetings and other presentations. Before, we saw this technology in Science-Fiction movies, now we can do the same and talk to other people from other parts of the world," he added.

Soledad T. Tenorio, the grand daughter of one of the entrepreneurs who helped fund the building of the facility, thanked everyone who helped in accomplishing the project. "This pushes the library to the new digital age."

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MVA lines up events for 2016, Tourism Month

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority unveiled their activities for this year as May was once again was proclaimed Tourism Month.

The proclamation was signed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of MVA.

According to Carol Chargualaf, special assistant to the managing director, their celebrations will kick off this weekend with the Hot Pepper Festival on Tinian.

The annual event highlights the island's famously potent "donne sali" pepper. It showcases local cuisine laced with the "pika" or spicy, eye-watering condiment.

However, this year will see the return of the old Ayuda Fun Run on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, which will also mark the reenergizing of the Beach Road pathway.

"The day of the fun run will be on the day the pathway lights are re-energized as a way to bring awareness that the lights are on while also raising money for a good cause," said Chargualaf.

Aside from the fun run, they will also hold their signature sports events such as the Tagaman, XTERRA Saipan, and the Saipan Marathon,

From March to December, MVA will be holding a social media contest on Instagram.

"We invite the community to post their favorite photos of the tourism industry over the last 40 years using the hashtag #MV40," Chargualaf said.

The MVA will also be holding a "Staycation Celebration" contest on Facebook.

For the month of May, MVA will have their newspaper supplement and will hold the essay, painting, and video clip contests for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, respectively.

"Our anniversary logo will be featured on all signature events, and all advertisements, giveaways, and banners," Chargualaf said.

Lions Club eyes repair of more bus stops

The Saipan Unity Marianas Lions Club is looking to repair and repaint more bus stops on the island, especially those damaged by Typhoon Soudelor last year. The Lions Club has just finished a two-day renovation of several bus shelters in Tanapag last week.

Lions Club board of director Ruth Torrecampo said they will next move to San Antonio village and then will try to locate more bus stops that need repairs and repainting.

"The [project] was implemented through careful planning and members motivation, which were the two essential tools in the renovation and repainting of the bus stops, and other services that the Saipan Unity could offer to the people of the CNMI in general," said Torrecampo.

The club's administrative funds were used to buy the materials and other supplies for the repair and repainting job, while Sherwin Williams and YCO Hardware donated the buckets of paint.

Club officers and members begin repair work on the two Tanapag bus shelters on Feb. 2 and 4 and completed the repainting on Feb. 6.

Lions Club first vice president Lyn de la Cruz and membership director Joe Digno supervised the repair, while president James Galvez and secretary Noemi Catigan led the repainting.

Former Lions Club president Saturnino Banting, second vice president Willy Barbo, treasurer Alice Barbo, and board of directors Sancho Escober, Argie Buensalido, and Torrecampo were also present in the repair and repainting of both bus shelters.

Torrecampo said the students and residents of Tanapag village could now again use the bus stops as shade against the heat of the sun or to avoid getting wet when it rains.

"They can also be used as a shelter for their safety without fear of any falling debris while waiting for their rides," she added. ***(Jon Perez)***

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					2/12 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: Closed	2/13 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: Closed
2/14 **Sunday Brunch $22** Dinner: Closed	2/15 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: Closed	2/16 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	2/17 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	2/18 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	2/19 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	2/20 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg. $35 (Local: $25)
2/21 **Sunday Brunch $22** Dinner: A La Carte	2/22 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	2/23 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	2/24 Buffet Lunch: $14 Dinner: A La Carte	2/25 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	2/26 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	2/27 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg. $35 (Local: $25)
2/28 **Sunday Brunch $22** Dinner: A La Carte	2/29 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte					

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Northern Marianas College
PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Northern Marianas College is currently accepting applications for the position of President. The President of the Northern Marianas College serves as the chief executive officer for the Board of Regents and oversees a multi-campus college system located on three separate islands (Saipan, main campus; Rota and Tinian).

Northern Marianas College is a Land Grant Institution that is accredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges. Founded in 1981, its focus continues to be ensuring student success and meeting the higher education and vocational training needs of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The institution has developed a comprehensive set of academic programs and services that address the social, cultural and economic development needs of its island communities.

Today, approximately 1,100 students are enrolled in credit programs that lead to an associate or bachelor's degree in the following areas: education, business, liberal arts, natural resource management, nursing, business administration, criminal justice, and hospitality management. The College also offers many non-credit, continuing education courses that are offered in various formats (online, hybrid, short-term, accelerated, etc.) throughout the year.

The President will report to the Board of Regents and will be expected to carry out the mission and vision of the College:

Mission: *Northern Marianas College, through its commitment to student learning, provides high quality, affordable and accessible educational programs and services for the individual and people of the Commonwealth.*

Vision: *Northern Marianas College will serve as the engine to drive the economic growth and the social and cultural vitality of the Commonwealth.*

Minimum Qualifications
- Earned doctorate degree from a U.S. accredited university or foreign equivalent;
- Seven (7) years of executive level management experience in an institution of higher education of which five (5) years are continuous, or a combination of at least seven (7) years of executive level management including post-secondary education teaching experience;
- Experience working in a multicultural environment, preferably in the Pacific region and in the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Substantiated experience in accreditation processes, personnel management, budget development and presentation, strategic planning and institutional assessment, fundraising, mediation, and team building; and
- Demonstrated knowledge of federal programs and grants application to higher education.

The salary for the position is $80,000 to $100,000 per annum plus benefits. Applicants with degrees from non-U.S. accredited institutions are responsible for providing an official evaluation of their degrees from an acceptable credential evaluation service to determine U.S. equivalency.

Applicants should include a curriculum vitae indicating their competences in Organizational Strategy, Resource Management, Communication, Collaboration, College Advocacy, and Professionalism; official transcripts; list of published journal work or scholarly research; three personal and three professional references (complete with name, title, address, phone/email contact); and four letters of professional recommendations specific to this position. Complete application packages and documents should be sent by certified priority mail and must be received by the closing date of April 15, 2016 for full consideration, to:

Ms. Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero
Chairperson, Presidential Search Committee
Northern Marianas College (Attention: Human Resources Office)
P.O. Box 501250, Saipan, MP 96950

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas College that equal opportunity be given to all qualified applicants without regard to age, race, gender, marital status, place of origin, religion, disability status, political affiliation, family relationship, or genetic information (GINA). The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The College reserves the option to extend the closing date. For more information about this position announcement and about the College, visit www.marianas.edu.

Joint Lunar New Year celebrations start tomorrow

JON PEREZ
Red-colored lanterns adorn the Paseo de Marianas in celebration of the Lunar New Year. The Chinese and Korean communities will be holding a joint celebration of the Year of the Monkey starting tomorrow at PDM in Garapan.

The Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI and the Korean Association of Saipan will be holding a joint celebration of the Lunar New Year for two consecutive Saturdays, Feb. 13 and 20, at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

CAS and KAS officials last week held separate ribbon-cutting ceremonies to kick off their festivities. They also decorated PDM with red-and blue-colored paper lanterns that liven up the tourist destination at night.

CAS president Jerry Tan said that it would be a historic and special Lunar New Year as both the Chinese and Korean communities joined together to celebrate and offer entertainment featuring both cultures.

The traditional Chinese lion dance will open up the festivities starting at 5pm. Students of the Chinese School of Saipan will take the stage next with a song and dance number, and more Chinese folk songs.

A bian lian performance, or the ancient Chinese dramatic art of face-changing, and acrobats from Beijing, Kung Fu exhibition, and a Chinese magician are the other performances lined up.

A local K-Pop group will open up the Korean program that also includes a Taekwondo exhibition and magic. Food stalls and art and cultural exhibits will also be offered.

Tan said it will be a historic celebration of the event here on Saipan with both the Chinese and Korean cultures having a lot of similarities especially when it comes to celebrating the Lunar New Year.

"We both celebrate the Year of the Monkey. This event is the first joint Lunar New Year Celebration with these two cultures and we look forward to celebrating it with the community and the tourists who will be on Saipan during this time," said Tan.

KAS president Hong Kyun Kim is thankful for the Chinese community in making the plan a reality this year.

"Thank you to [CAS] for extending the invitation to join them this year. The Korean community is excited and we will be bringing our food, talent, and culture to this event to share with everyone," said Kim.

The Marianas Visitors Authority and the Paseo de Marianas Promoters Inc. are also sponsoring the event in their joint effort of showcasing the cultural diversity of the CNMI to visiting tourists. ***(Jon Perez)***

AAG: Statement on lobbying has no negative implications

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay has stated that there are no negative implications to be drawn from his previous statement that "historically, persons with judgments and other claims against governments have lobbied for private bills to pay them."

Lochabay said there is certainly no implication that "only well-connected and influential parties are able to enforce their monetary judgments against the Commonwealth."

Lochabay discussed yesterday his prior statement in response to Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's order on Monday, setting a status conference to hear, among other issues, the parties' arguments on the implications of OAG's statement that to get payments from court judgments against the government, persons can lobby to lawmakers or avail of tax offsets program.

Camacho asked the parties in the lawsuit filed by couple Jotonia B. Aguon and Timothy Cruz to attend the status conference on Feb. 16, 2016 at 1:30pm.

In the government's response yesterday, Lochabay pointed out that in his statement he used the word "historically" so it means that it was not directed at the Commonwealth, but is a broad statement of how claims against governments were resolved in the past.

He said it has been settled law for more than 150 years that courts are powerless to enforce judgments against governments.

Lochabay said the Commonwealth is a small community where many citizens know their elected representatives.

"If the people pressure legislators to pay these judgments, upon pain of not being reelected if they don't, they will get paid," he said.

This, Lochabay pointed out, is not a heartless argument that aggrieved parties should be left on their own to collect their judgments.

"It is merely an acknowledgment of existing law that prevents the court from assisting these people, together with the long history of democratic legislators responding to the needs of their constituents," he said.

On Camacho's question whether oral arguments are necessary as to the supplemental briefs that the parties have filed, Lochabay said the government sees no point at this time.

He said this matter was argued thoroughly for over two hours at the initial hearing on Aguon's motion for order in aid of judgment, later consolidated with a lawsuit filed by Gorjonny Camacho against the government.

Lochabay said there are no factual disputes before court.

He said it is undisputed that plaintiffs hold judgments against the Commonwealth that are unpaid due to failure to appropriate sufficient funds to pay them.

He said only issues of law are before the court and deciding them is the sole and exclusive province of the court.

"That being the case, sworn testimony from witnesses would not be of any assistance to the court," Lochabay said.

Aguon and Cruz are holding a $35,000 judgment against the government over the death of their child during delivery in 2012 at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Gorjonny Camacho is holding a $10,000 judgment against the government for his medical malpractice lawsuit. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

42 people safe after abandoning fishing boat south of Hawaii

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard successfully coordinated the rescue of 42 people who abandoned ship when their fishing vessel *American Eagle* caught fire approximately 1,800 miles south of the Hawaiian Islands, Wednesday.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Air Station Barbers Point arrived on scene at 5:10 p.m. (HST), established communications with the fishing vessel's crew and dropped a dewatering pump, flash lights and flares.

Fong Seong 888, a Tuvalu-flagged oil tanker, arrived on scene at 5:30 p.m. (HST) to offer additional assistance.

The captain of the *American Eagle* reported smoke had lessened from the disabled fishing vessel and boarded the vessel with eight crew members to suppress the fire. The captain reported the fire extinguished and the vessel to be in stable condition. The team of nine was able to restart the generator, reestablish electricity and maintain communication. The remaining 33 crewmembers were successfully recovered from their life rafts, workboats, and skiff by the *Fong Seong 888*.

American Eagle's sister ship, *American Victory*, is en route and expected to arrive in three days to relieve the *Fong Seong 888*.

The crewmembers aboard the 258-foot U.S.-flagged fishing vessel abandoned ship at 10 a.m. (HST) into two life rafts, three work boats and one skiff. An emergency position-indicating radio beacon was activated and continues to transmit information.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu received notification from the vessel's company American Eagle Fishing LLC at 8:38 a.m. (HST) of a fire aboard the vessel.

No injuries have been reported. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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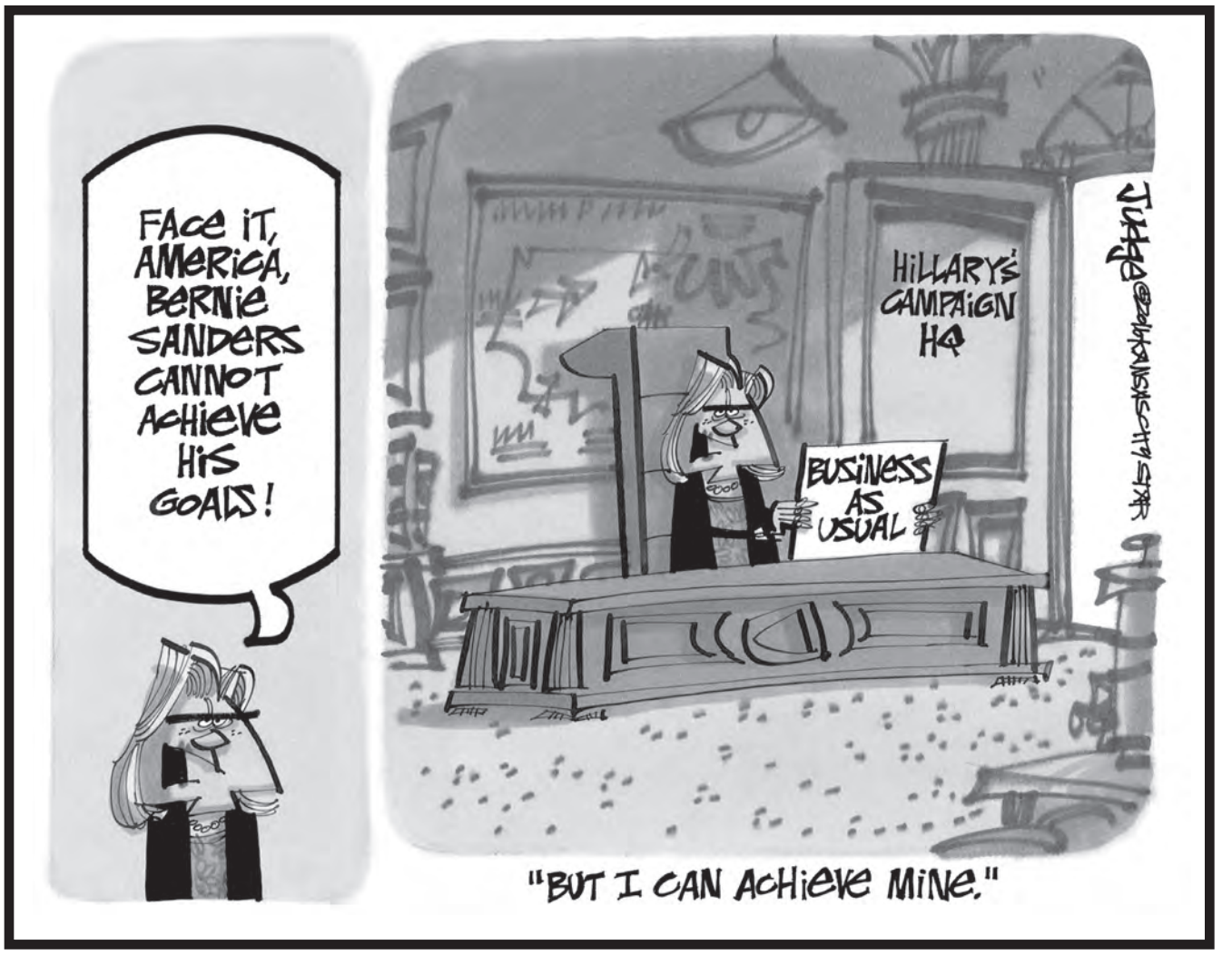
FACE IT, AMERICA, BERNIE SANDERS CANNOT ACHIEVE HIS GOALS!
HILLARY'S CAMPAIGN HQ
BUSINESS AS USUAL
"BUT I CAN ACHIEVE MINE."
JUAN @JUANSCHITTSTAR

EDITORIAL

Obama's wishful budget can't be taken seriously

When President Barack Obama submitted his proposed budget one year ago, he claimed that he wanted to do away with the "mindless austerity" of the sequestration, which had provided some measure of limitation on government spending. Then in December, aided and abetted by a Republican-controlled Congress, he eradicated those minor restrictions and replaced mindless austerity with clueless profligacy.

Now he puts forth a budget for the 2017 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, that calls for $4.15 trillion in spending, a $223 billion increase over the current year's budget. His proposal, curiously released while all eyes were focused on the New Hampshire primary, spans more than 2,300 pages, which, in itself, serves as a testament to the federal government's bloat and overreach.

The president's budget contains $3 trillion in proposed tax increases over the next 10 years, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. The most controversial of these is a $10.25-per-barrel oil tax, which would be used to fund "clean" transit projects and low-carbon technologies such a self-driving cars, which the private sector is already rapidly developing. With oil prices currently hovering around $30 a barrel, that is a roughly 35 percent tax, which experts project would translate to a price hike of about 25 cents per gallon at the pump. Fortunately, this is a nonstarter for congressional Republicans.

The president's budget message reads like his State of the Union addresses, espousing his wish list, from "green energy" subsidies to universal preschool to high-speed rail and increased transit funding to $4 billion for a K-12 computer science program to two years of "free" community college to apprenticeship programs to "encouraging" state paid leave policies — none of which is the province of federal, state and local governments.

Obama's budget would, once again, expand government control over our lives and further burden current and future generations with debt. It is understandable that a lame-duck president with a somewhat hostile Congress would advance a budget sprinkled with fairy dust, but Obama's proposal should not be taken seriously with regard to fiscal responsibility.

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Abe on Valentine's

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Saipan teams with lovers as the Spring Festival vacation in China extends for a week from the 8th. It is a preferred destination for newlyweds. Bedroom duties are not rushed; it comes casually like the weather. Patience in relationships comes easy.

More than a century ago, a great bearded emancipator, Abe Lincoln, was born in a Kentucky log cabin, raised in Indiana and became a politician in Illinois, universally known as the U.S. President who signed the emancipation proclamation freeing slaves, intensifying the Civil War with the South in 1863.

A highly agricultural area dependent on the manual labor of slaves, Confederacy elites demurred while the plantation dames and gentry aped their royal cousins in Europe by attending to their gowns and balls, in spite of the obvious trend that it's waltzes were Gone With the Wind. It was the heart's desire to maintain the ways of European royalty in the grounds of plantations run by slaves.

At the Kentucky school I attended, white girls dating blacks was a "no-no," even by a missionary daughter who salved her conscience by dating Oriental me in '66. How sporting of her though not so with the missionary who ran orphanages lunching near a hotel cafe in Burkina Faso, a victim of African resurgence vis-a-vis Aryan supremacy.

Interracial love was not in the air in Kentucky, and not in many U.S. places even today. Many T-shirts sport the sign, I "heart" you, referring to a place like New York City or Tokyo, Shanghai, or San Francisco. I wore my SF jacket in China last month, almost brought it back to Saipan with the inner lining and the hood I might have used for a day. I remember picking it up by the Bay one day when I discovered that even mellow San Francisco does not keep a wide elbowroom on Chinatown.

I want to focus on the "heart," not about the name of the location emblazoned in many shirts, but that balancing part of the brain from which the impetus of the yin-yang originates.

Abe was all heart when his lanky 6'4" frame delivered his Gettysburg Address, roughly written in the train on the way in. I memorized his speech in college where he wrongly predicted that the "the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here." But Abe took a bullet to the head, compliments of John Wilkes Booth who felt he was doing the Confederacy a favor by pulling the shot heard around the world in the balcony of the Ford theatre in D.C.

Abe decided from the heart. Secessionist South made common sense, as the horse-and-buggy soil tillers did not sit well with the industrializing North. The notion of a Union was an abstraction. Abe felt his gut tremble confronted by the possibility that the U.S. might be rent in two. The Supreme Court decided on the Dred Scott vs. Sandford case on March 1857 where the Chief Justice declared blacks were not citizens and had no rights from the Constitution. Lincoln opposed this decision that later cost him his breath.

The "heart" in the Orient is a balancing act, performed with sobriety and grace. To be sure, the wildness of the heart exhibited around the Mediterranean is more of the Valentino of our familiar, but we write from the Orient and the traits of Sinosphere are a huge ingredient in Saipan. Heart day favors roses and features flowers with ample supply of allergy pills, holding hands a common sight facing the beautiful sunset by our lagoon.

This was not my experience of America early on. I moved to a school in Texas from Kentucky and spent my first semester protesting the "for whites only" washetaria near the school. At a church summer camp offered to Latino inner city youth, the director often hollered to me: "Jaime, I need your color!" I looked enough of a TexMex and my pidgin Hispanic creole recognizable that I passed easily for a local. While processing bankcard charges part time, I applied for a fulltime position that required English proficiency. I lost to a Caucasian girl who came to me for explanations on procedures printed in English.

I live during the summer in Dong Bei (northeast) of Zhongguo, the Middle Kingdom (China). Being in the middle is a judgment of the heart, the symbolic metaphor for the balancing act of the brain. Zhong is harmony in the middle. Merchants on the Silk Road were called "people of the Qin," from where the word "China" evolved. The "Chinese" call themselves Zhongguoren, people of the middle. That made a profound click at why the yin-yang symbol is so dominant in Sinosphere life. China avoids peripheries and edges, ensuring that everyone stays in harmony in the middle (Zhong).

Sinosphere tourists from countries that have strict rules on guns, patronize Bing, Beng, Bang on Saipan for their live cartridges but Valentino waltzes with clenched flower in his teeth and a ribbon-tied box of chocolate on hand, with intensity only in the crime of passion.

This Feb. 12 is Abe's b-day. The world did note, and long remember. At 56, he was enshrined, became the world's Valentine.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Disconcerting vacuum

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Earlier in the year, there was a state of mourning dovetailed by the dawn of mind-bending morning. The former was purposeful, the latter a vacuum of appalling disorientation!

We sit discouraged and hopeless quizzing if more of the same mind numbing hardship is in store for families all over the archipelago. The mess is deepening, daily!

The deafening vacuum reminds many of the two-three day silence from imperial Capital Hill after Soudelor recedes into the horizon. No leadership as people decided to start rebuilding on their own. Was this a tale of what's ahead? It's happening now!

While we sit around listening for some respite of hope in our future we're told to spend time with our children. It's purely intramural stuff. Then came tidings of the Fiji trip relating to power generation. Isn't CUC now working on an integrated energy resource proposal? Would Uncle Sam approve of federal dollars going to a firm in Fiji? It demonstrates what happens when the chief navigator hasn't a clue what a canoe looks like. It's a junket to avoid fiduciary duty!

We've kept our ears to the ground on likely cabinet appointees. There's suspicion that it would be nepotistic. Understood! It's a sly way to amassing something in an indirect fashion. We wouldn't guard it but watch as the scheme crumbles of its own weight. What's in our future?

Demise of the Fund: When the NMI piled negligence atop other negligence and grandly ignores fixing the mounting fiscal mess it eventually crash land in bankruptcy. This is the history of the NMI Retirement Program.

Retirees were generously given their 30 percent bonus, 3-percent increase for legislators for every year served for their retirement, inclusion of others who didn't contribute. It included a decision that allowed a parade of governors to skip paying the employer's contribution of over a million dollars per month. It started out (contribution owed) with $23 million, $72 million, $100 million, and other subsequent huge amounts.

Pension obligation fund was floated as though to pay off the debt but this is illegal in the sense that it's basically a loan owed retirees paid for by retirees. Asinine!

Then some genius came along with a competing program, Defined Contribution plan that eventually allowed Defined Benefit plan members to withdraw their money. This sent the program limping for money in that the DB members who are supposed to be paying are gone! An initiative was moved to salvage the program but was defeated out of ignorance.

Then came the receivership in what's now the Settlement Fund. I think the administration must fork out some $45 million for this or next fiscal year. Could it pay for it amidst a cumulative deficit of $510 million?

The Fund is owed some $789 million in unfunded liability (employer's contribution) destined to deplete all its money by 2018 or two and-a-half years from now. Has anyone done anything concrete to restore the insolvency of the program? Do we blame Uncle Sam for this fiscal mess and demand renegotiation of the agreement because we've failed self-government royally? The Fund is now sputtering struggling for air and would soon drown and die!

What happens to retirees when every penny is spent? We're dead fish in the water, right? When do we begin owning up to our responsibilities to put real teeth into self-government?

Smiling Cove: The finger of the Smiling Cove Marina is getting ticklish. Former politicians are brokering to run the outer cove to pave the way for Best Sunshine's yacht. They're waltzing to the classic "Heaven" and wanted to begin a business partnership as servile affluenza.

Sleek move by former politicians hooked with moneyed people. Would they still be pulling the collar of their old office? Wow, this is strangely illuminating and enlightening!

Moreover, the inner cove is under U.S. Fish and Wildlife though under the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Fees for boats using it are charged by size per a decision by the former. The secretary of DLNR wants it changed to a per passenger basis. Definitely, this needs clearance from US Fish and Wildlife and the secretary can't whimsically do so to accommodate his "we few" friends.

Use it or otherwise is up to the boat owner levied by size not number of passengers. The current arrangement cuts costly administrative expenses. How about a plan that also accommodates small boat owners who once used the slips or finger to tie their boats?

Calming shores of home: We have been battered by poor family economics, the golden trophy of the ineptitude cabal upstairs, but we muddle along biting our lower lips. Our last hope of making it to the next day is being home in the islands. It grants us some respite of calm to push through our daily task.

Our religious cultural tradition has been and still is the golden backstop for many of our people. It is founded on values, vision, respect, sharing and helping the less fortunate in our community. It has pulled us together and leaves us reasonably calm and collected at day's end no matter our situation.

The combined benefits of education and traditional values at home have given us an illuminated view of our north star to follow. We sailed the open sea of life confident we would get to our destination in calm or storm. And we've made it however delayed our journey may be on occasion.

Yes, I'm equally aware that we have shifted into a more permissive society. I'm not sure this is the right path to instilling the strength of our religious and traditional values. If we don't revive it at home then it means it would slowly disappear.

Our culture was and still is the golden backstop that gives us time to retreat and reset buttons as we move forward. We need to revive it. It has that strong element of consistency and stability.

New Hampshire's verdicts present new dilemmas

By MARTIN SCHRAM
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

New Hampshire's primary voters have resoundingly presented America's political parties with two unprecedented, very different dilemmas.

Granite Staters overwhelmingly made Donald Trump the Republicans' presidential front-runner — he beat runner-up John Kasich by a 2-to-1 margin. Now the Grand Old Party's dilemma is their front-runner is prone to be uncontrollably foul-mouthed. Indeed, he has proven himself an un-presidential embarrassment to any parents who may have brought young children to his events to see a future president.

New Hampshire voters also gave the Democrats a landslide victor, neighbor Bernie Sanders, of Vermont — he defeated Hillary Clinton by an 18-point margin. The Democrats' dilemma is that party pros fear Sanders is too leftist to be elected president and could lead the party into devastating, across-the-board defeats comparable to the routs suffered under the leadership of the two Georges, McGovern and Custer. It remains uncertain whether the Democrats' just-dethroned yearlong consensus favorite, Hillary Clinton, will be able to recalibrate her strategic appeal and rekindle the flame of impassioned support that flickered and died in New Hampshire. Clinton, long a front-runner to be America's first female president, overwhelmingly lost the support of young females to the 74-year-old liberal revolutionary, Sanders.

And this brings us to the Democrats' bottom line dilemma: Nationally, the Democrats have the weakest bench of alternative presidential prospects either major party has had since World War II. If Clinton falters or is undone by the FBI's probe of the private email she used as secretary of state, it is unclear there can be any viable alternative to Sanders. (Vice President Joe Biden, who opted out in the emotional duress following the death of his son Beau, could conceivably reconsider.)

Meanwhile, both parties have landslide victors who were never longtime proud card-carrying members of the parties they are now fronting. Trump was a longtime Democrat who never made a quick and clean conversion to the Republican Party (as Ronald Reagan famously did). Trump always contributed grandly to candidates from both parties, hoping they could help him make more money. Sanders proudly called himself a democratic socialist and independent, not a Democrat. Until now.

Republicans face one more dilemma. On the eve of Tuesday's historic New Hampshire vote, Trump, who wants in the worst way to be our president, demonstrated, yet again, he's at least capable of going about it in the worst way. At a Manchester, N.H., rally, when Trump noted Ted Cruz's debate comment opposing waterboarding of terrorist suspects, a woman shouted a word most couldn't hear. Trump stopped and pointed at her, declaring: "She just said a terrible thing. You know what she said?" Then, with a teenager's smirk, he instructed her: "Shout it out because I don't want to say." She did; but most still couldn't hear her. Trump's smirk widened; you could sense he was about to commit a full-frontal Fonz; and he did: "I never expect to hear that from you again. She said he's a p----." (Here, the man who wants to be your president, uttered the P-word for a female body part.)

The crowd roared with glee. And Trump, with all the faux sincerity he could muster, proclaimed: "That's terrible!" No doubt he felt it was also terrible when, the previous Thursday, he committed not one obscene faux pas, but two — an F-bomb and an S-bomb — at a Portsmouth, N.H., rally.

But all the above pales compared to Trump's most un-presidential and unacceptable campaign conduct — which was, indeed, worse than any candidate has ever has been recorded committing. In November, Trump mocked a New York Times reporter who suffers from a disease that limits the use of his arms. The reporter, who has interviewed Trump multiple times, had said he couldn't substantiate Trump's claim of witnessing thousands cheering the fall of the World Trade Center towers in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Then, at a South Carolina rally, Trump mocked the reporter's affliction. "You gotta see this guy!" Trump shouted, contorting his face, raising his arms, with hands flopping helplessly in front of him. And in an exaggerated disabled person's voice, the man who wants to be your president shouted: "'Aaahh, I don't know what I said. I don't remember!' He's going, 'I don't rememberrrr. Maybe that's what I said!'"

Which brings us to the Republicans' ultimate dilemma: It isn't ultimately about Trump's abhorrent conduct. It is about the sad acquiescence of Republican voters who are rewarding his conduct with their most precious possessions — their votes. They, too, used to be better than that.

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fooling ourselves

As all of us coming to a full circle on the issue of special election and matters concerning non-elected governor and lieutenant governor, the sloppy and lazy attention of the OAG and elected AG, the mystical absence of all our elected representative of the people and islands of the CNMI, the forgetfulness of lawyers in elected officials' offices, the unintended consequences of the CNMI election commission just watching the flows of the mess being tossed and left unchecked by the wishful desires and wrongful discourse of the OAG and AG are problems not made by the people. When the CNMI Constitution and implementing laws that are being ignored, our inept attitude as a people to follow and question our elected leaders because we don't want to hurt any one, are not imaginary and accidental disasters and turmoil that came out of nowhere. This is a societal problem. But, we ended just fooling ourselves. Hence, it is better to stir up a question without deciding it than to decide it without stirring it up. Call your elected people representatives and island representatives and ask them what they think and let the public know.

Just one thought for all of us to endure and come to grip with as John Lubbock said, "in truth, people can generally make time for what they choose to do, it is not the time but the will that is lacking." This is the point here, and if we stay the course in what is being forced against our will as the sovereign and power of this government, then our laws, our constitution, our people, and the social order and fabric of our existence are being left to rot, trampled, tossed, and shoved as day's fly by our elected leaders. Hence, our laws and constitution do not mean a thing. Take your frustration and doubt and ask your precinct and island representatives what is keeping them from being a point of contact to all these unanswered question they need to make good at. It is sad and we learn well that those who make their dress a principal part of themselves will, in general, become no more value than their dress.

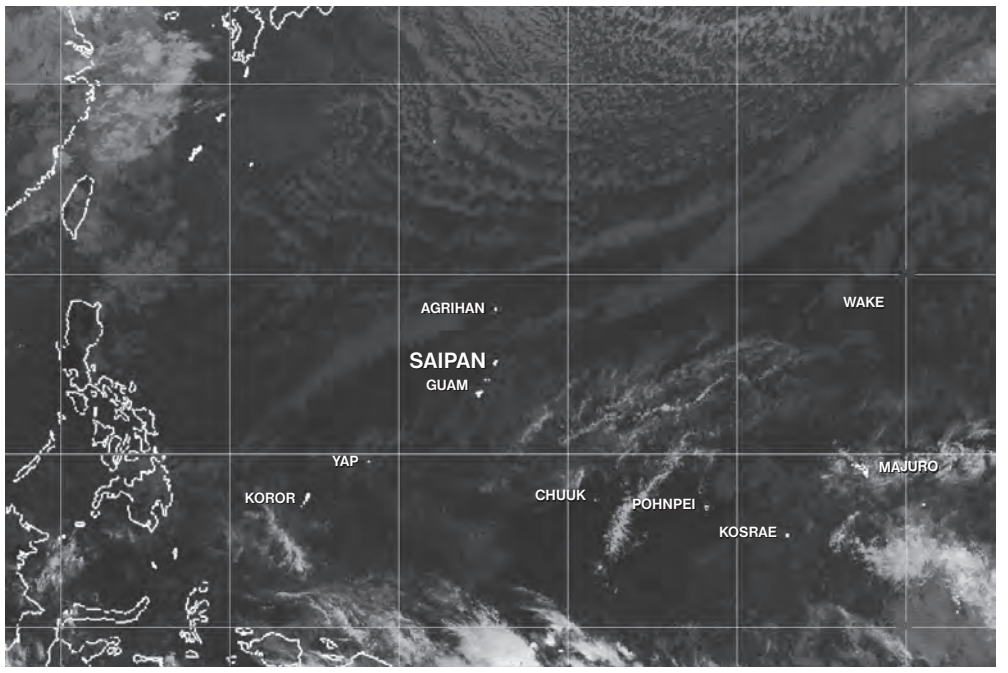
Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly clear with a slight chance of showers.	Mostly clear with a slight chance of showers.
▲85º ▼75º	▲84º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northwest of Wake Island at 25N166E to 18N153E then continues as a shear line through the Northern Marianas north of Saipan to 16N140E and 9N130E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to about 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A weak trade-wind disturbance is producing cloudiness and areas of scattered light showers within 125 miles either side of a line from 9N137E to 13N147E to 10N153 to 13N158E including Yap and Guam but situated north of Chuuk. A trade-wind disturbance is generating cloudiness and scattered showers across the southern Marshall Islands south to Tarawa in the area bounded by EQ170E to Majuro to 1N180 to EQ180 back to EQ170E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲82	▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼65
Beijing	Showers	▲54	▼33
Hong Kong	Fog	▲70	▼65
Honolulu	Sunny	▲82	▼69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲86	▼56
Manila	Sunny	▲90	▼71
Melbourne	Sunny	▲83	▼62
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼57
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲31	▼19
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Paris	Showers	▲44	▼39
Pusan	Rain	▲62	▼51
Rome	Showers	▲58	▼51
Salem	Cloudy	▲59	▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Seoul	Rain	▲52	▼42
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼47
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲31	▼19

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
10:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
10:31 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:22 AM	9:54 PM
Saturday	10:10 AM	10:53 PM
Sunday	10:59 AM	11:52 PM
Monday	11:50 AM	
Tuesday	12:41 PM	12:50 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Lawmakers prepare for MILA

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Air service, shipping cost, healthcare, and free trade issues between Guam and the Commonwealth, among others, headlined discussion between House lawmakers on Tuesday as they prepared the central topics for the assembly of the Marianas Islands Legislative Association later this year.

The lawmakers also plan meet with counterparts in the Senate to discuss these issues further.

During discussion Tuesday, air service between Saipan and Guam—due to the much-maligned services of Cape Air/United—remained a central topic. Lawmakers spoke to cancelled or delayed flights and the lack of compensation for travelers stuck on Guam.

Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) noted that both attorneys general for Guam and the CNMI have come out publicly on the Cape Air issue. "United needs to improve air services," he said.

Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) said Guam is the "main hub" of international travel in the region. "We are stuck at the whim of Cape Air" and in the event "if Cape Air decides to cut ties we will have to fly" to Japan to get to Guam.

In the case when people are stranded in Guam due to cancelled flights, Attao said, residents have to "shoulder everything until they get a flight out of Guam."

Sablan also noted shipping issues between Guam and Saipan that need to be addressed. He spoke toward the additional charges as result of having goods shipped through ports in Guam. "Depending on long they are there, costs are incurred," he said.

Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) pointed at the lack of practicing physicians at the local hospital. He asked that lawmakers look at policies that Guam has in place to allow licensed physicians from foreign countries practice on the island.

Sablan said the NMI is not allowed to have license physicians from foreign countries because of Medicare and Medicaid rules.

"When you have just a couple of doctors walking the halls on a 24-hour basis, it's tough," Sablan later told reporters. "We should get information CHCC and their leadership and see what their concerns are before we head into this MILA conference."

Sablan wants to start conversations with the CNMI's sister islands to see what they have done to have "the effective healthcare that we also rely on."

'Parenting comes with no instructions'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Helping other parents get the available resources needed for improving and strengthening their families is one of the goals of the proclamation declaring February as National Parent Leadership Month, which Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed late last month.

Division of Youth and Services administrator Vivian Sablan said this is what the National Parent Leadership Month wants to achieve, for parents to have an active role with their families and in the community they live in.

"We need parents to become leaders who could play an active role in their communities. To inspire other to do the same," said Sablan, who added that parents are the first people their children look up to.

"Strong communities are the result of happy families. How you take care of your kids will impact their future lives. Our kids are future leaders of our community, so we must be part of their growth process," she added.

Sablan said DYS would facilitate and utilize the process of helping educate parents, especially single parents, of their roles in the community.

"How would they make an impact? How to get rid of the daily struggles of being a parent? These are some of the questions that we want to give answers to them. Parenting has no instructions," said Sablan.

"Being a mother of two daughters, I too am still learning. I still have challenges and struggles. That's what we want to establish to the parents. To have the resources within reach," she added.

On Feb. 16 and 17, a Parent Education Program Display/Outreach will be held at the CHCC-Women, Infant and Children Program.

A Parent Development Workshop, where Parent Leaders will be honored, will be held on Feb. 20 from 7:30am to 4:30pm with the venue to be announced.

The National Parent Leadership Month began in 2004 and it aims to recognize parents that went beyond their families in helping improve the community.

An Early Childhood STEP Class and a Parent Education Program Presentation would be held in different schools are the other activities of the National Parent Leadership Month.

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FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Coleen Duenas and Andrea Camacho of Marianas High School and Kagman High School Interact clubs, respectively, visited Japan last Jan. 18 to 24 through the Rotary Youth Exchange Project between the Rotary Club of Saipan and Rotary Club of Tokyo Hachioji South.

2 HS students visit Japan for Rotary Youth Exchange Project

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two high school students from Saipan were able to visit Japan this year through a student exchange program of the Rotary Club.

Rotary Club of Saipan partnered with the Rotary Club of Tokyo Hachioji South for the Rotary Youth Exchange Project and was able to send Coleen Duenas of Marianas High School and Andrea Camacho of Kagman High School Interact Clubs last Jan. 18 to 24.

The two students were able to interact with Japanese students as well as attend Rotary meetings.

They also learned about cultural practices as well as practices in the education system and how it differs with the way schools are run in the commonwealth as included in their program was a visit and study at the international school "Keimei Gakuen," a trip to the amusement park Fujikyu Highland and explored downtown Tokyo.

For Camacho, the trip was unforgettable as it was the first time that she left the CNMI.

"This is my first time I left the islands and the first time I ever touched snow. It was such euphoria to be in Japan. Words cannot describe how grateful I am and words cannot describe how big and foreign everything was," Camacho said.

"Thank you for sending us for this wonderful experience," she added.

Duenas echoed the sentiment and noted how warm the people in Japan were.

"It's definitely a new experience for us and we enjoyed every moment of it," Duenas said, "Everyone in Japan was really welcoming."

Rotary president-elect Ivan Ilmov said the students from Japan will be coming to Saipan on April and Rotary will host them.

He added that this is the first time that they participated in the exchange program and that it was only short term.

Ilmov said they are looking at doing a month-long or a semester-long exchange program possibly next year.

Depending on their budget, they may send at least two students and noted that they can partner with other countries as well.

Free SBDC business workshop/ training on Tinian and Rota

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, through the Department of Commerce and in partnership with the Commonwealth Development Authority, will be offering free business workshops " How to Write A Business Plan" by Orrin Pharmin from 10am to 12:pm on Friday, Feb. 12, at the Northern Marianas College-Tinian and Friday, Feb. 19, at NMC-Rota.

This seminar will cover all of the elements to be included in a business plan, and will also explain with examples what is required in each section. The focus of the seminar will be the three M's: Money, Management, & Marketing.

Participants will also be provided with a sample business plan, sources of industry research information, and introduced to online business planning tools that are accessible at any time through an internet-enabled PC.

Deadline to pre-register is one business day before workshop at 12pm. Seating is limited so advanced registration is required (this is on a first come, first serve basis). Walk-ins are allowed and granted on space availability. Workshop must meet minimum enrollment in order to run. If workshop fails to meet such enrollment, CNMI SBDC reserves the right to reschedule or cancel such workshops.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center is a member of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN). Its mission is to support the growth and economic development of the U.S. affiliated islands in the western pacific by providing free one-to-one, confidential business counseling and high quality training to existing and prospective small businesses.

For more information about registering for these workshops, contact Lori Pangelinan at lori@pacificsbdc.com or the Department of Commerce at (670) 664-3018 on Saipan, (670) 433-0853 on Tinian, or (670) 532-9478 on Rota. ***(PR)***

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Man arrested for allegedly raping 18-year-old in jungle

A 56-year-old retired Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power plant operator was arrested on Tuesday afternoon in Dandan for allegedly raping an 18-year-old student in a jungle area at the Saipan airport.

Police served an arrest warrant to John Santos Aldan for sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Aldan is currently a maintenance worker at a private company.

At a hearing Wednesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho retained the $100,000 cash bail that was originally set by Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Preliminary hearing will be on Feb. 16 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for the defendant.

Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley appeared for the government.

Police Detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a police officer responded to Children's Park in Dandan on Monday afternoon after a woman reported that her 18-year-old daughter was raped.

The alleged victim told police that Aldan picked her up from school that day at 5:30pm. Instead of taking the usual route through Finasisu and As Lito roads, Aldan drove her to a jungle area by the ARFF building at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

The teenager said she struggled but Aldan grabbed her neck and raped her inside his red Toyota T 100 pickup truck.

She later told her mother about the incident. Her mother then called the police.

The teenager disclosed that last January, Aldan also brought her to the same jungle area, but he did not touch her after seeing her texting her mother. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

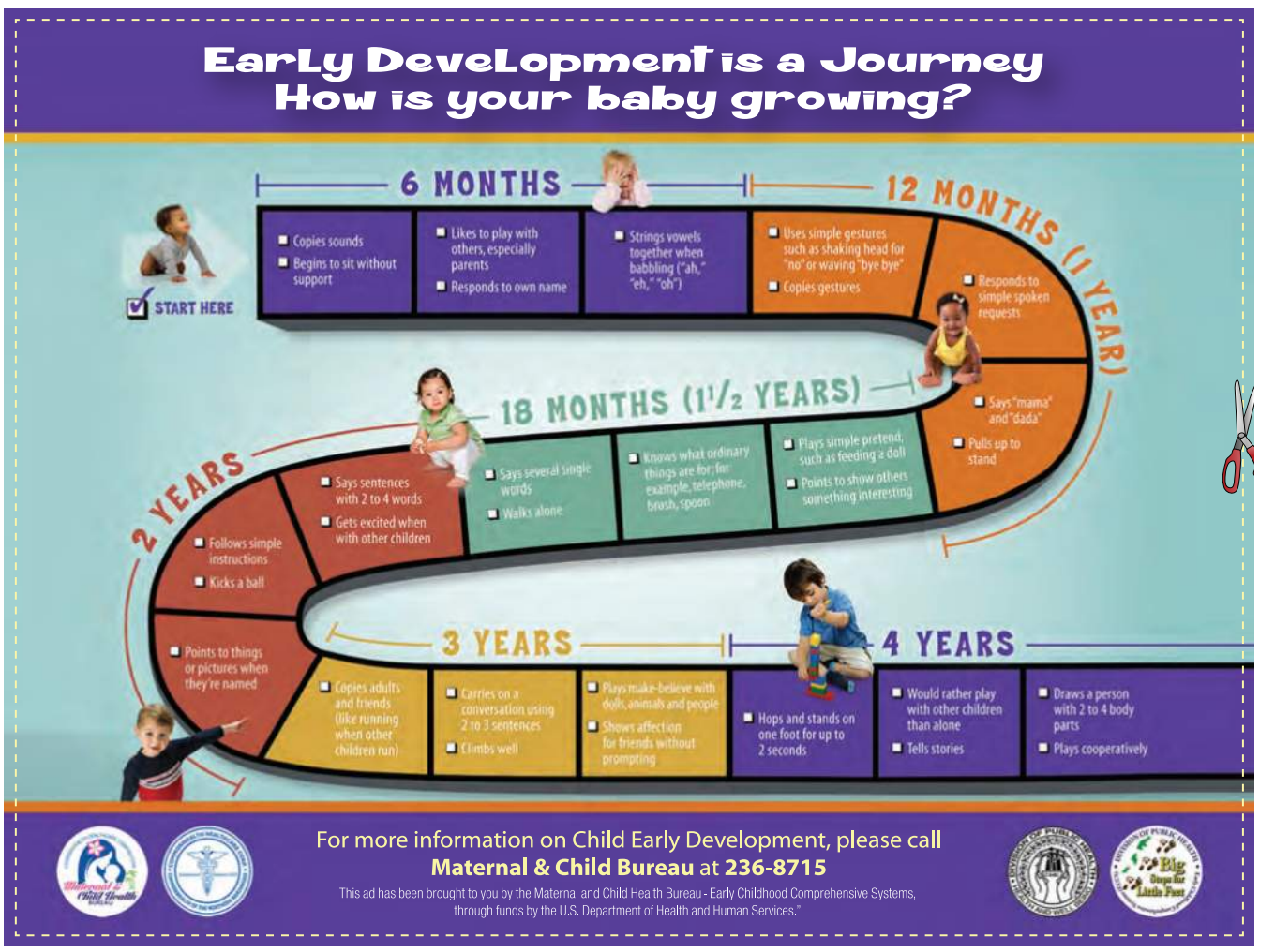
Bordallo presses Navy on net-negative strategy

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo informed Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo that she has placed a temporary hold on a Navy proposal to lease property in South Finegayan and the former Tumon Tank Farm for Photovoltaic Systems infrastructure.

Calvo and several local families have expressed concerns with the Navy's proposal to lease additional lands for this project. Bordallo informed Calvo that she has placed a hold on this project until the Navy can provide additional information on this project, as well as provide a clear plan for how this project will be incorporated into DoD's "net-negative" strategy.

The project is part of the Navy's overall goal to increase renewable energy consumption and is not directly related to the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. However Congresswoman Bordallo believes that any project that proposes using additional lands should be considered as part of the Navy's "net-negative" strategy. She strongly supports the Navy's efforts to develop sustainable energy infrastructure, but this must be balanced with concerns raised by our local community.

"Any DoD project that proposes leasing additional land on Guam should be accounted for in the DoD's 'net-negative' strategy. I want to ensure concerns that have been raised by local families are addressed, so I have placed a temporary hold on this project until the Navy provides information on this particular effort. I am fully supportive of the Navy's efforts to increase renewable energy consumption, but there are a number of questions that must first be answered. I will continue to work with our local leaders and federal partners to ensure the concerns of our local community are addressed by federal officials." ***(PR)***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Copies gestures
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Says "mama" and "dada"
Pulls up to stand
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Says several single words
Walks alone
Knows what ordinary things are for; for example, telephone, brush, spoon
Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
Points to show others something interesting
2 YEARS
Says sentences with 2 to 4 words
Gets excited when with other children
Follows simple instructions
Kicks a ball
Points to things or pictures when they're named
3 YEARS
Copies adults and friends (like running when other children run)
Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences
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Plays make-believe with dolls, animals and people
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By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

What to do and where to go on V-Day

It's already the second week of February and that only means one thing; Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Chocolate candy hearts, flowers, and a dinner date for two are the common formula for the so-called love month. Call it cheesy, but let's all be honest here we secretly love it. It is only this time of the year where we bring out the Romeos and Juliets among us.

Here's a "where to go" and "what to give" guide for all the lovers, couples, friends, and families out there who wanted to be in the mood for the most romantic season.

WINE & DINE

Aqua Resort Club

Head up north to one of Achugao's familiar hotel resort and treat your special someone to a dinner buffet that features a menu of Certified Black Angus roast prime ribs, lamb shawarma, baked Atlantic whole salmon, tuna sashimi, sushi station, snow crab legs, Panzanella (Tuscan salad) station, and a lot more. The dinner comes with bottomless wine and beer.

Sparks will surely fill the air while you wine and dine as ARC's in-house pianist and violinist would further invigorate your romantic mood with classical love songs. Ladies would also get a fresh rose for free while exciting raffle giveaways are also at stake.

ARC's Valentine's dinner buffet is on Feb. 14, Sunday, from 6pm to 9pm. Guests can enjoy the food and music at $45, for adults, and $20 for child. A 10-percent discount will be given to local residents upon ID presentation. For more information, call 322-1234 extension 731 or 732.

Club C

Be in love while playing in Club C. Enjoy the island's first e-gaming facility while sipping drinks with your special date. Try the appetizer medley for just $12.95 and get two free glasses of champagne. The appetizer medley includes Buffalo wings, lumpia, salad sticks, French fries and peanuts.

Ladies who will be wearing red will get free chocolates. Club C is also offering a special Hearts Day promo of two drinks for the price of one.

Try couple drinks Mojito and Margarita, Vodka Tonic and Vodka Cranberry, Bloody Mary and Strawberry Daiquiri, and Mai-Tai and Sex On The Beach at $9 each, or Pink Lady and Grasshopper at $6. Alcoholic milkshakes are also available. Must be 21 to consume alcohol.

Fiesta Resort

For a more intimate Heart's Day celebration, why not try Mai Teppanyaki's Valentine's Special—a five-course menu that comes with a bottle of Bottega Fragolino per couple at $155. Couples will also be receiving a Chambre Bar complimentary drink coupon with the choice of frozen, regular or flavored Margarita.

The five-course menu will have seared Teppan-style scallops with crispy fried leeks on raspberry coulis; clear fish bouillon, lobster ravioli in saffron foam; a choice of lemon-pepper seared Chilean sea bass or veal steak and Porcini coulis served with buttered vegetables and potato; and Valentine's dessert.

The dinner for two is for limited seating only from 6pm to 8pm. For more information, call 234-6414 extension 1547 or 1548, or 233-6414.

Sunshine Garden

For those who are not into the mushy stuff, you can go and try one of Saipan's newest food destinations, Sunshine Garden Restaurant in Texas Road in Susupe behind the Marianas Business Plaza. They have a Valentine's Day special offer of steak and lobster combo for $45.

Business hours are from 11am to 2pm at lunch and dinner from 6pm to 10pm. For inquiries or reservation, call 2350105.

GIFTS & THINGS

Blossom Floral Shop

Surprise your special someone with a gift basket of flowers and items that would set her mood right in the most romantic day of the year. Reserve your special gift and have it delivered at their office or at home. Gift baskets include an assortment of roses, chocolates, candles from Bath & Body, wine or perfumes that will be beautifully arranged by our staff

Blossoms Floral Depot & Novelties is open from Mondays to Saturdays from 8:30am to 6pm. They are located at the J.E.T. Building in Gualo Rai. For inquiries, call 235-2276 and 235-7372.

Design Florist

Express your feelings on Valentine's Day with floral arrangements by Design Florist. You can choose from regular or deluxe arrangements in three pieces or half dozen red roses; or regular, special, or deluxe with a dozen red roses. They also offer a large selection of stuffed toys that could be paired with the roses for your special date.

Wine, fruits and wine, and chocolates are the other things that they could arrange in their beautifully crafted baskets. Visit Design Florist and see a wide selection of other Valentine's gift ideas.

Design Florist is located at Cabrera Center in Beach Road and is open from Mondays to Saturdays from 8:30am to 6pm. For inquiries, call 2345593 or 2358572.

New Paradise Florist

Try ordering at New Paradise Florist where you could choose from three options of special arrangements. Option A has six full bloom roses with mini roses in a glass vase; Option B has six roses, stuffed toy, chocolates, a Happy V-Day balloon and pick inside a glass vase; and Option C a dozen roses, stuffed toy, chocolates, a HVD balloon and pick arranged in a glass vase.

They also have tulips, orchids, lucky bamboo, a fruit and wine basket, gift basket, roses (in different packaging), chocolates, stuffed toys, and HVD balloons (either in mylar or latex).

To place your orders, visit New Paradise Florist in Middle Road in Gualo Rai across the Shell Gas Station or call 2339875 and look for Robert.

Docomo Pacific

Now is the right time for you to change your old mobile phone. Get up to $100 off in all smartphones and up to 50 percent less in accessories. A 10-percent bonus load is also given in every prepaid card purchase. The offer is valid until Feb. 15 or while supplies last.

IT&E

IT&E is offering a sweet deal with its S6s where you can get the mobile phone as low as $229 and $399 with plan. It includes a Valentine's Day package giveaway that includes a Polaris ride for two at Let's Go Tours, a two-hour massage for two at Sawatdee Thai, dinner for two at Giovanni's Restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, and a his and hers Valentine's basket.

iShop

The iShop stores at Kanoa Resort and Fiesta Resort & Spa will be holding a one-day sale on Feb. 14 offering customers 14 percent off. On Valentine's Day, look for a gift with a heart for your loved one. iShop will also soon open a branch at Paseo de Marianas.

Joeten

All four branches—Susupe, Garapan, Dandan, and Kagman—will have a Valentine's Day Sale starting today until Sunday, Feb. 12 to 14. On a tight budget this Heart's Day, avail of low prices in various items that could help you plan in celebrating at home. Valentine's gift items, stuffed animals and accessories, are all at 25 percent off.

Triple J

The island's only Truckload Store continues to offer a wide variety and quality brands of household items, toys, and other electronics direct from K-Mart. They also have an assortment of Valentine's Day items all at 50 percent off. For more information, call 322-0430.

Did you know adult female green turtle body parts were found at Tank Beach over the weekend?
Hunting sea turtles is illegal in the CNMI under public law 02-51. You may be eligible for a $1000 reward in return for information leading to an arrest. All tips remain anonymous;
please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement at (671) 472-7200, or DFW Enforcement hotline 285-2287.
To report sick, injured, dead or disoriented turtles please call our stranding hotline at 287-8537 (C-TRTLES).
CNMI turtles are a shared community resource connecting our people's past with our people's future. Help us to conserve sea turtles so future generations may be able to enjoy them also.
DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE
CNMI

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on **Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten DanDan Building, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   - A. Call to Order
   - B. Roll Call
   - C. Adoption of Agenda
   - D. Adoption of Minutes
     1. January 21 and 25, 2016 Regular Board Meetings
   - E. Correspondence

II. **Public Comments****

III. **Management Reports**
   - A. Executive Director
     1. Update on SO1 and SO2 Projects
     2. Update on EPA Grant Projects
     3. Presentation by Economists.com
   - B. Chief Financial Officer
   - C. Legal Counsel

IV. **Executive Session*****
   1. Consultation with Legal Counsel on Personnel and Operations Matters

V. **Board Reports/Miscellaneous Administrative Matters/New Business**
   1. Personnel Committee
   2. Operations Committee

VI. **Adjournment**

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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D'TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, v. RUDOLF W. LEIS and HELGA G.G. LEIS, Defendants.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO.: 15-0199 **SUMMONS (for Publication)**

TO : HELGA G.G. LEIS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which shall be provided upon request to Plaintiff's counsel, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

Dated: December 24, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Third Publication

Bordallo applauds FY17 HHS budget request

BIRTHDAY MONTH

Happy 7th birthday to Alyvia Jaime, left, who celebrated her special day last Feb. 6. Happy 25th birthday to Daddy Shane, who's celebrating his today, Feb 12. Happy advance 1st birthday also to to Madison Hadassah on Feb 22. I love you all and God bless you always from Mommy!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TWIN CELEBRATIONS

Happy 78th birthday to the world's most loving, caring, brave, and the most outrageously awesome Grandpa ever! May your day be filled with lots of love, joy and blessings. Love, The King-Cruz Family. Happy 1st birthday to our Magas who has the most adorable and cutest smile, Blayke Kyle King Cruz. You are one of the most precious gift that God has blessed us with. May you continue to grow healthy and strong. We love you. From Daddy, Mommy, Kayven, and Junior.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo today issued the following statement regarding the President's budget request for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2017.

President Obama's budget proposal takes steps to strengthen health programs and makes improvements to the delivery of Medicaid in the territories. Among the provisions benefiting Guam, the budget:

■ Removes the cap on funding for Medicaid to better align territory Medicaid programs with those in the States;

■ Expands eligibility to 100 percent of the federal poverty level in territories below this level;

■ Gradually increases the share of Medicaid costs covered by the federal government as territories modernize their Medicaid program.

The improvements contained in the President's budget build off efforts proposed by Congresswoman Bordallo and the other territorial delegates. In 2009, Bordallo introduced the Territorial Health Parity Act that contained each of the proposed changes in the President's budget. She has also worked with HHS and CMS to address concerns of the Medicaid program in Guam and the other territories.

"I applaud President Obama for including provisions in his FY17 budget proposal to strengthen health care programs in the territories. The President's budget includes significant improvements to the Medicaid program that would provide much needed assistance to our local governments and island residents. The proposal would remove the cap, expand eligibility to 100 percent of the federal poverty level, and increase the federal cost share for Medicaid. These are all proposals that I and my fellow delegates have proposed in the past, and the Administration's incorporation of them into the President's budget is a positive step toward resolving these discrepancies. I look forward to working to maintain these proposals during the appropriations process and to working with my colleagues to improve health care in the territories." ***(PR)***

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- legendrealtycnmi@gmail.com

INFORMATION REQUIRED:

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- Asking price

Business

Surprise insurance fees often follow medical emergencies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Recovering from a medical procedure is always a challenge, but getting hit with unexpected insurance fees can add financial hardship to the process.

As health insurance plans become increasingly complicated, more patients are facing unexpected fees when they step outside their plan's coverage network. In many cases, patients don't realize they've received out-of-network care until they're slapped with a bill for hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Nearly a third of insured Americans who have financial problems tied to medical bills faced charges that their insurance would not cover, according to a recent survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation. These out-of-network charges were a surprise to nearly 70 percent of patients, who did not know the services were not covered, according to the non-partisan policy group.

Here are some key questions and answers about out-of-network charges and potential steps for protecting yourself.

Q: How does this problem occur?

It usually happens when people need to be hospitalized for medical care. Even though services from their primary physician may be covered by their in-network insurance coverage, services provided by other professionals, such as anesthesiologists, radiologists and emergency doctors often aren't. In those cases, the patient will be billed at out-of-network rates.

The often-hefty bills leave many consumers angry and confused. Determining whether various specialists are in your network can be difficult, sometimes impossible, particularly during emergency situations.

"You can't wake up from a heart attack and say to the ambulance provider, 'Excuse me, are you in my network?'" says Karen Pollitz, who has studied the issue for the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Q: How much do these fees cost consumers?

Experts say there is little hard data on the cost of out-of-network charges or how frequently they occur. But a 2011 study by the state of New York found that the average out-of-network emergency bill was about $7,000. After assistance from insurance and other services, most consumers still had to pay roughly $3,780.

Q: Is there anything I can do to protect myself?

If you have a scheduled surgical procedure coming up, experts say there are certain precautions you can take to insulate yourself from surprise fees. But they warn that even these will not guarantee you won't be touched by out-of-network providers.

If possible, call the hospital in advance and make sure the surgeon and assistants handling the procedure are part of your insurance network. You can also talk to the hospital and request that any tests are sent to in-network laboratories for processing. Surprise fees often arise when hospitals send blood samples or medical scans to outside facilities for development.

Even in these situations, however, hospitals often cannot tell you which radiologist or anesthesiologist will be handling your procedure. That means even if you've tried to pre-manage the process you may receive care from an out-of-network provider.

"This is one of these situations that I think is very challenging for consumers. Consumers just don't have any control," says Georgetown University professor Kevin Lucia, an attorney who has studied the problem.

Q: I've already received a bill that includes these charges. What can I do now?

The first step is to call your insurance company and let them know what happened. Some employer-sponsored health plans have policies where patients are not responsible for out-of-network charges, especially if they occur during an emergency. Even if your plan doesn't have such a benefit, insurance companies can try and work with the hospital to negotiate lower fees.

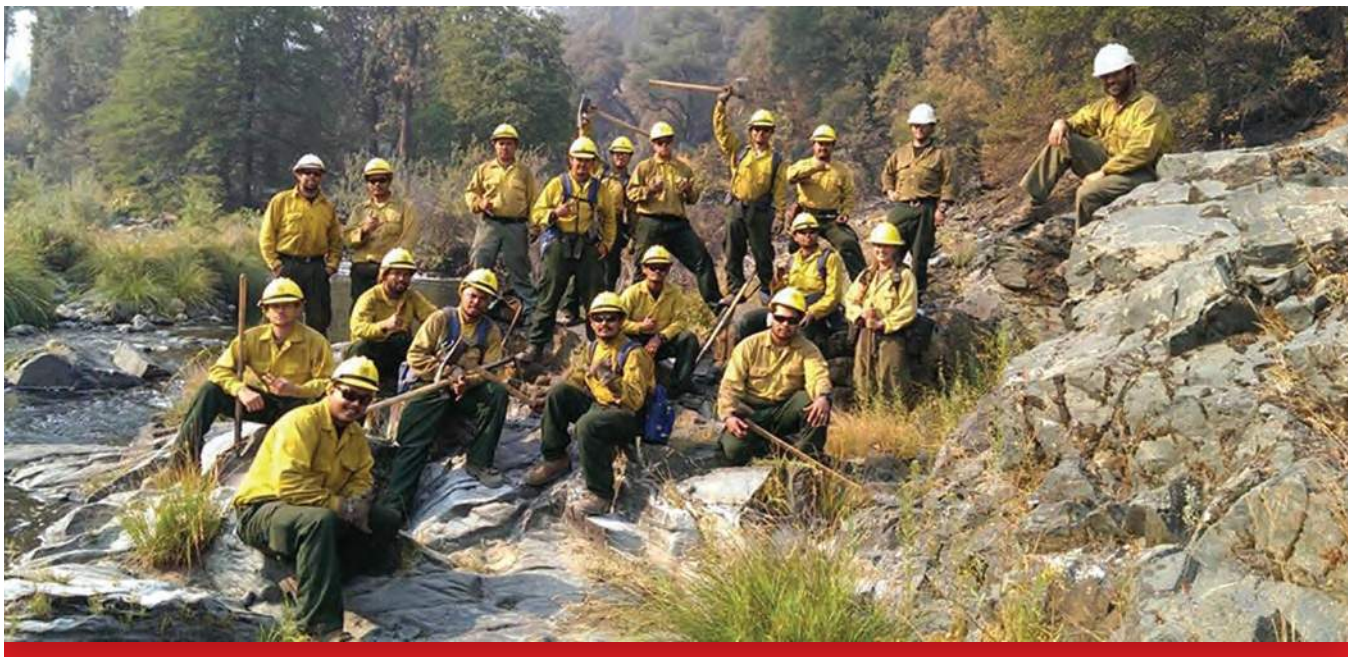
You can also check if your state has a consumer assistance program to help patients with health insurance problems. Currently, ten states run such programs, including California, Illinois, Michigan and Maryland.

Q: Is anyone working on a permanent solution to these problems?

Most experts who have studied the issue say legal changes are needed to protect consumers for surprise medical fees. In most cases that means new laws at the state level.

New York recently implemented a law that relieves patients from out-of-network expenses that arise from emergencies or certain other circumstances. The law does not eliminate the fees, but instead requires insurance companies and hospitals to begin negotiations to resolve the charges.

"The consumer is out of the process at that point," says Pollitz. "They pay what they would have paid if they were in-network and then they're done."



Type II Handcrew Packtest

February 25 & 26, 2016 at 1600-1800 hours
February 27, 2016 at 0600-0900 hours
Kilili Beach North Parking Lot

The Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services [DFEMS] Forestry Strike Team is looking for individuals for our Type II Handcrew. Applicants must be disciplined, reliable, physically fit, and are able to work hard under tough conditions.

TEST: Applicants must complete a 3 mile walk (no running) with a 45 lbs pack under a 45 minute time period.

REQUIREMENTS: IS 700, certification for returning individuals and a valid passport to enter the United States. Must turn in IS700 Before March 1st.

Contact Person: Firefighter Linus L. Mizutani Jr.
Email: llmizutani@dfems.gov.mp | Tel.: 285-7324

Burger King's next conquest: Hot dog king

NEW YORK (AP)—Burger King is looking for a new crown: Hot Dog King.

The Miami-based chain says it plans to put hot dogs on its menu nationally for the first time starting Feb. 23. It may seem like a jarring addition for those who know the chain for its Whoppers. But Burger King says its ability to flame-grill meat makes hot dogs a natural fit on its menu.

"This is probably the most obvious product launch ever," said Alex Macedo, president of Burger King North America.

With the launch, Burger King says it will offer hot dogs at all 7,100 of its U.S. restaurants—more U.S. locations than any other chain. Smaller chains that sell hot dogs include Dairy Queen and Sonic Drive-In.

The move comes as Burger King works to push up sales amid intensifying competition, with McDonald's offering breakfast items all day to spark a turnaround, while Wendy's offers a "4 for $4" deal to get customers in the door. In 2014, Burger King's sales rose 2.1 percent at established locations in the U.S. and Canada. Parent company Restaurant Brands International Inc. reports results for 2015 next week.

Nation

Jumbled GOP field hopes for survival in South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Hoping for survival in the South, a muddled field of Republican presidential contenders descended Wednesday on South Carolina, no closer to clarity about who can stand between Donald Trump and their party's nomination.

Not me, Carly Fiorina announced, dropping out of the campaign. A Chris Christie spokeswoman said his race was over, too. But a sizeable field remained.

To the dismay of party leaders, all signs point to a drawn-out battle for delegates following Trump's resounding victory in New Hampshire. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, under immense pressure to prove himself after a devastating fifth-place finish, was looking for a fight that could last for months or even spill into the first contested GOP national convention since 1976.

"We very easily could be looking at May - or the convention," Rubio campaign manager Terry Sullivan told The Associated Press.

If Trump had Republicans on edge, Democrats were feeling no less queasy.

Rejected in New Hampshire, Hillary Clinton sought redemption in Nevada, where a more diverse group of voters awaited her and Bernie Sanders.

Sanders, a Vermont senator and self-proclaimed democratic socialist, raised $5 million-plus in less than a day after his New Hampshire triumph. The contributions came mostly in small-dollar amounts, his campaign said, illustrating the resources he'll have to fight Clinton to a bitter end.

Both Clinton and Sanders—the first Jew to win a presidential primary—worked to undercut each other among African-Americans and Hispanics with less than two weeks until the Democratic contests in Nevada and South Carolina.

Sanders met for breakfast in Harlem with the Rev. Al Sharpton, a civil rights activist. Clinton, meanwhile, announced plans to campaign with the mother of Sandra Bland, whose death while in police custody became a symbol of racial tensions. And Clinton's campaign deployed South Carolina state Rep. Todd Rutherford to vouch for her support for minorities.

"Secretary Clinton has been involved in South Carolina for the last 40 years," Rutherford said. "Bernie Sanders has talked about these issues for the last 40 days."

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Asia

S. Korea shuts down joint industrial park with N. Korea

PAJU, South Korea (AP)—Under the gaze of armed soldiers, large white trucks streamed across the world's most armed border Thursday as South Korean workers on Thursday began shutting down a jointly run industrial park in North Korea. The South's suspension will end, at least temporarily, the Koreas' last major cooperation project as punishment over Pyongyang's recent rocket launch.

It was unclear how long the shutdown at the industrial complex in the border city of Kaesong would last, or even how long it would take South Korean companies to close down. Pyongyang has yet to comment, but Seoul said that North Korean workers did not report to work at Kaesong on Thursday.

Along the South Korean side of the border, trucks lined up Thursday morning before crossing into North Korea, presumably to bring back products and gear from the factories. Soldiers stood guard near customs offices and military vehicles escorted cars and vans to the South Korean side.

The shutdown is one of Seoul's strongest available punitive measures, but it is unclear how seriously the impoverished North would be hurt. Seoul said it wants to stop Pyongyang from using hard currency from the park to develop its nuclear and missile programs.

The closing is meant to punish North Korea for its Sunday launch of a rocket that the world sees as a banned test of ballistic missile technology.

Yoon Sang-eun, 62, a South Korean driver for a firm at the factory park, said that if Kaesong "stops operating, companies like us almost have to close off business. It is difficult."

The South's Unification Ministry, which is responsible for ties with the North, said about 130 South Koreans planned to enter Kaesong on Thursday to begin shutdown work, and that nearly 70 South Koreans who had been staying there would be leaving.

North Korea, in a fit of anger over U.S.-South Korean military drills, pulled its workers from Kaesong for about five months in 2013. But, generally, the complex has long been seen as above the constant squabbling and occasional bloodshed between the rival Koreas, one of the last bright spots in a relationship more often marked by threats of war.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye has now done something her conservative predecessor resisted, even after two attacks blamed on North Korea killed 50 South Koreans in 2010.

The question among some is, Why now?

While Park has yet to explain her reasoning on the timing, she has previously shown a willingness to take quick action when provoked by the North. When the North conducted its fourth nuclear test last month, for instance, she resumed anti-Pyongyang propaganda from loudspeakers along the border, despite what Seoul says was an exchange of cross-border artillery fire the last time she used the speakers.

The factory park, which started producing goods in 2004, has provided 616 billion won ($560 million) in cash to North Korea, South Korean Unification Minister Hong Yong-pyo told a news conference.

"It appears that such funds have not been used to pave the way to peace as the international community had hoped, but rather to upgrade its nuclear weapons and long-range missiles," he said at the televised briefing.

The Unification Ministry said in a statement that the government had "decided to completely shut down" the park. It notified North Korean authorities of the decision and asked them to help ensure the safe return of South Korean citizens from Kaesong.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Seoul: N. Korean leader Kim had his military chief executed

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had his military chief executed for corruption and other charges, a South Korean official said Thursday. If true, the execution of Ri Yong Gil, chief of the North Korean military's general staff, would be the latest in a series of killings, purges and dismissals since Kim took power in late 2011. Details about North Korea's opaque government are notoriously difficult for outsiders to get, even national governments, and South Korean officials have a spotty record of tracking developments in North Korea. A South Korean official said that Ri's execution was part of Kim's effort to bolster his grip on power. Other charges Ri faced before his execution were abusing his power and forming a clique, the official said.

US WWII vet reunites with wartime girlfriend in Australia

SYDNEY (AP)—A 93-year-old World War II veteran from the United States embraced his wartime girlfriend in Australia in their reunion Wednesday after more than 70 years apart. Norwood Thomas and 88-year-old Joyce Morris laughed as they wrapped their arms around each other after Thomas flew from Virginia to the southern Australian city of Adelaide to reconnect with his long-lost love. "This is about the most wonderful thing that could have happened to me," Thomas said, in a reunion broadcast on Channel 10's "The Project." "Good," Morris replied with a laugh. "We're going to have a wonderful fortnight."

Car strikes gas tanker in Pakistan, killing 10

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani police official says a car slammed into a gas tanker, causing a fireball that killed 10 people, including six children. Mohammad Kashif says another 17 people were wounded in the accident Wednesday in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province. He says the accident was caused by fog and negligent driving, and that people were killed and injured when the fireball engulfed surrounding cars and rickshaws. The dead included six schoolchildren and two female teachers.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For the Supply, Delivery, Installation, & Commissioning of Two (2)Runway PAPI Lights (Precision Approach Path Indicator) & Two (2) REIL Lights (Runway End Identifier Lights) for the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport, Rota

Project No. CPA ROTA-RFP-009-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified electrical and engineering firms, company, and/or corporations to supply, deliver, install and commission two (2) PAPI Lights & two (2) REIL Lights at the Benjamin T. Manglona, Rota International Airport

The proposal package will be available beginning January 15, 2016, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held at the Office of the Rota Ports Manager, Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport, at **0900 AM, February 5, 2016**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A subsequent site visit will be conducted in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **2:00 p.m., February 12, 2016**.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposals may be submitted to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, via facsimile (fax) to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.receptionist@pticom.com no later than **February 5, 2016**. Response to inquiries shall be by addendum and provided to all proposers who have picked up the proposal package.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Date: 01/05/16

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for construction of a Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Containment Barrier at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport Brown Tree Snake Containment Barrier Construction, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a 40'x 40' concrete containment barrier, inclusive of masonry work, touch up painting, electrical connection to existing panel, lighting and power, bituminous pavement, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars ($150.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or mis-entry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/S/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: January 22, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERIMETER FENCING REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Engineering Design Services for the replacement of the airport perimeter fencing at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, February 19, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKINGS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-002-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Engineering Design Services for the project onsite assessment and survey and preparation of design with plans and specifications to remove and replace all airfield marking and other miscellaneous work to complete the project at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The design must comply with FAA A/C 150-5340-1L.

The project is being funded by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, February 22, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LOADING BRIDGES 2, 3 AND 6 REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the removal and replacement of three (3) passenger loading bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, February 19, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, March 4, 2016.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

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The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

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Commonwealth Ports Authority
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Saipan, MP 96950-1055

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority:

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKINGS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Engineering Design Services for the project onsite assessment and survey and preparation of design with plans and specifications to remove and replace all airfield marking and other miscellaneous work to complete the project at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The design must comply with FAA A/C 150-5340-1L.

The project is being funded by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, February 22, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

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Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
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Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Kurds attack Syrian air base held by insurgents

BEIRUT (AP)—Kurdish fighters helped by Russian airstrikes launched an attack in northern Syria on Wednesday in an attempt to capture a military air base held by Syrian insurgents, while an international aid group warned that the health system in parts of the north is close to collapse. Syria's Kurds have been among the most effective forces battling the Islamic State group, but have remained largely neutral in the conflict between President Bashar Assad and the rebels fighting to overthrow him. But with Syrian troops backed by Russian warplanes waging a major offensive between the northern city of Aleppo and the Turkish border, the Kurds appeared to be exploiting the chaos to expand their nearby enclave, known as Afrin.

94-year-old former Auschwitz guard goes on trial in Germany

DETMOLD, Germany (AP)—A 94-year-old former Auschwitz guard is going on trial on 170,000 counts of accessory to murder in western Germany, accused of serving in the death camp at a time when hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews were gassed. Former SS Sgt. Reinhold Hanning maintains that he served in a part of the Auschwitz camp complex where no gassings were taking place. Prosecutors argue that all guards helped the camp function, and that during the so-called "Hungarian action" in 1944 almost all were called upon to help deal with the vast numbers of people arriving at the killing complex in Nazi-occupied Poland. Leon Schwarzbaum, a 94-year-old Auschwitz survivor from Berlin, is scheduled to testify Thursday, the opening day of the trial. It is unclear whether Hanning will first make a statement.

Church talks help make Cuba 'perfect place for negotiations'

HAVANA (AP)—The heads of the Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches will hold a historic meeting Friday in the threadbare international airport of an officially secular, communist-run tropical island. Odd as the location seems, Pope Francis' and Patriarch Kirill's attempt to reconcile their churches after centuries of estrangement will set the tone for a year of peacemaking in Cuba, a nation trying to shed its historic role as international socialist provocateur. In addition to the meeting of the church leaders, Cuban President Raul Castro is expected to welcome President Barack Obama to Havana as early as this spring to celebrate the detente the two men declared at the end of 2014, ending a half-century of hostility.

Turkish leaders lash out at UN demands to open border

KILIS, Turkey (AP)—Turkey's leaders lashed out Wednesday at the United Nations and others who are pressing the country to open its border to thousands more Syrian refugees, accusing them of failing to shoulder the refugee burden or stop the Russian bombings that have triggered the exodus. The civil war in Syria has killed more than 250,000 people and forced millions to flee their homes since it began in 2011. In recent days, a Russian-backed Syrian government offensive around the city of Aleppo has sent tens of thousands of people fleeing to the Turkish border. Turkey has taken in some 3 million refugees—including more than 2.6 million Syrians—making it the country with the world's largest refugee population.

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NEW RESTAURANTS LOOKING FOR STAFF

Two new food and beverage outlets looking for friendly, dedicated and service-oriented staff to join our team. We are looking for:

- **Restaurant Manager**
- **Kitchen Sous Chef**
- **Pastry Sous Chef**

- Floor Supervisors
- Waiters / Waitresses
- Cashiers
- Kitchen Supervisors
- Cooks / Pastry Cooks
- Stewards
- Part time artist for one wall mural project in our hot pot outlet

Previous experience is preferred, as is command of foreign languages, e.g. Chinese.

Interested applicants please send your resume and short introduction to sunshinejobs@icloud.com

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION TITLE: LEGAL COUNSEL (PART-TIME/minimum of 20 hours per week)
PER ANNUM SALARY: $20,008.00 - $31,040.00
REPORTS TO: Program Manager
LOCATION: NMPASI Office – Saipan

OVERVIEW:
The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities, seeks to hire someone who is energetic and committed to the cause of insuring that individuals with disabilities are free from abuse, neglect and other forms of discrimination resulting from their disabilities.

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:
This is an exempt professional position responsible for providing legal guidance on the day-to-day advocacy services for eligible clients with disabilities and for conducting community outreach/presentations regarding issues surrounding the needs of individuals with disabilities. The Legal Counsel is selected by a panel of NMPASI Management Staff, reports to the Program Manager and works under limited supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures with considerable latitude for independent action and decisions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
- ✔ Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree;
- ✔ Admitted to Practice Law in the United States District Court of the Northern Mariana Island; the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and Supreme Court of the Northern Mariana Islands; and
- ✔ Demonstrated interpersonal skills which allow employee to maintain productive working relationships with co-workers, clients and other working professionals.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on Middle Road approximately 100 yards north of Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for application to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resume, (3) Completed Application Forms and (4) evidence of CNMI Bar admission. Incomplete applications and/or application which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 (voice) / 235-7278 (tty) or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. ***NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN-HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: February 1, 2016
Closing Date: March 1, 2016

Position: Accountant I
Salary: PL 30/01 – $22,576.96 to PL 30/06 - $30,246.740 P/A
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2016, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than March 1, 2016, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

Science & Technology

Disappearing act: Twitter reports flatlining user growth

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Twitter set out to build a virtual town square bustling with billions of people. But it's starting to look more like a novelty stand as the masses flock to other services that strike a more personal chord.

The San Francisco company showed no user growth at all in a fourth-quarter report released Thursday, the clearest signal yet that the one-time trendsetter is struggling to remain relevant. That leaves it with 320 million monthly users—roughly one-fifth the size of Facebook.

CEO Jack Dorsey is working hard to reconfigure the decade-old service. That's trickier than it sounds, since he also needs to avoid alienating a core of devoted users who depend on it to tweet their thoughts and track issues that matter to them.

Dorsey took a step in that direction Wednesday, announcing plans to tweak Twitter's timeline to highlight tweets that the service will appeal the most to each user, instead of only presenting them in reverse chronological order. He also has hinted that Twitter may lift its long-standing 140-character limit on the length of each tweet.

"We have some really weird rules ... that just nobody understands," Dorsey told analysts on a conference call, mentioning Twitter's arcane punctuation requirements for replying to messages. "We need to fix things."

Dorsey added that he expects the new timeline formula will attract more users. "It does improve the experience fundamentally," he said.

Flatlining user growth also suggests that Twitter's previous effort to make the service more accessible—Moments, a tool that compiles tweets about major events in a graphic, online magazine style—hasn't done much to get people excited since its October debut.

By one measure, Twitter's user numbers actually declined in the fourth quarter. Excluding people who only receive Twitter alerts as text messages, the company said its monthly active users dropped from 307 million in the third quarter to 305 million in the fourth quarter.

Dorsey, however, said those numbers "bounced back" to third-quarter levels in January. Chief Financial Officer Anthony Noto said the company is seeing more new users as well as "resurrected" users who had previously enrolled and went inactive for a time.

Twitter lost another $90 million during the final three months of last year, preserving its profitless history. Revenue rose 48 percent from the previous year to $710 million, providing some measure of hope that the service can still be turned into a viable of business.

That lackluster performance has hammered Twitter's stock, now down more than 50 percent since Dorsey returned as CEO last summer. The shares shed another 52 cents, or 3.5 percent, to $14.46 in extended trading after the fourth-quarter numbers came out.

Perceptions of Twitter are souring on both Main Street and Wall Street, according to Marcus Messner, an associate journalism professor and social media specialist at Virginia Commonwealth University.

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NO. OF OPENINGS	POSITION	SALARY
	Guest Relations Officer	$6.05-$6.55 /Hour
1	Vice President of Security	$150,000-$250,000 /Annual
1	Project Manager (Design, Development and Construction)	$60,000-$90,000 /Annual
1	Host (Premium Mass and Customer Service)	$20,000-$30,000 /Annual
1	Executive Host (Premium Mass and Customer Service)	$30,000-$38,000 /Annual
5	VIP Tour Guide	$35,000-$49,000 /Annual
1	Shift Manager (Premium Mass and Customer Service)	$38,000-$48,000 /Annual
1	Vice President of Table Games	$150,000-$225,000/Annual
1	Senior Vice President - Hotel Operations	$360,000-$550,000 /Annual
2	Assistant Vice President - Hotel Operations	$105,000-$148,500 /Annual
2	Senior M&E Manager	$120,000-$150,000 /Annual
1	Purchasing Manager	$69,400-$77,120 /Annual
20	Customer Service Manager	$69,400-$77,121 /Annual
4	Vice President of Hotel Operations	$170,000-$350,000 /Annual
1	Assistant Project Director	$174,000-$210,000 /Annual

How to Apply:
To find out more about these positions, look on the Labor Department website (www.marianaslabor.net). If you believe you have the skills and attributes to be successful in these positions, please email your resume to recruitment@bestsunshine.co.

Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Olomwaay for your interest Best Sunshine International.

BEST SUNSHINE LIVE
太 平 洋 娛 樂

Off The Wall

Jumping donkey leaps to fame in Egyptian village

AL-ARID, Egypt (AP)—A donkey has leapt to fame in a small Egyptian village by defying her species' well-known stubbornness and jumping hurdles on command.

Ahmed Ayman, a 14-year-old farmer living in the Nile Delta north of Cairo, discovered his donkey's natural talent when she leapt over an irrigation canal one day, and decided to train her. "We got a very small barrier, and then would make it higher and higher each day," he said.

Now the two perform in front of crowds of gleeful children from their village of al-Arid. Ayman uses a wooden baton to urge the donkey on and leaps over a homemade wooden barrier in the style of an equestrian. A cousin has posted pictures of the feat online, which have been spread through social media.

AP

In this Friday, Feb. 5, 2016 picture, Egyptian farmer Ahmed Ayman, 14, rides his trained donkey as he jumps over a barrier in the Nile Delta village of Al-Arid about 150 kilometers north of Cairo, Egypt.

Donkeys are a fixture of daily life in rural Egypt, where they are used for transportation or to haul goods, and can often be seen in Cairo and other major cities. But it's rare to see a donkey gallop, much less go airborne.

"I have never seen a jumping donkey before. We even tried it with another donkey and when it reached the barrier it stopped," said Abdel-Moneim Sayed, Ayman's uncle. "A donkey is very stubborn. If he knows that he cannot pass a barrier he will not even try, no matter what you do."

Ayman dreams of one day jumping horses, but he says he would never part with his donkey, even for a huge sum of money, "because she can jump, and I love her."

Here is a series of photographs of the donkey showing off her unique talent by Associated Press Photographer Amr Nabil.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Charges dropped against woman who nursed baby squirrels

HOWELL, N.J. (AP)—Charges against a New Jersey woman who nursed two abandoned baby squirrels back to health have been dropped on a technicality. Maria Vaccarella, of Howell, had faced up to $500 in fines after she took in a pair of baby squirrels abandoned by their mother. Vaccarella used social media to document the rehab, which caught the attention of state Fish and Wildlife officials. She was charged with illegally being in possession of wildlife in July. NJ.com reports a judge dismissed the charges after finding that the summons she was issued didn't charge her with the correct offense. Vaccarella says she had no idea what she was doing was against the law. She says she "would definitely save a life again."

Man waves gun behind TV reporter during live broadcast

NEW YORK (AP)—Police say they're investigating after a man appeared to wave a handgun behind a television news reporter during a live broadcast in New York City. It happened shortly after noon Wednesday as a WNBC-TV reporter stood in front of Brooklyn Supreme Court. The man appeared to wave the gun behind reporter Michael George as he spoke about the trial of a police officer charged with fatally shooting a man in a Brooklyn housing complex. A police spokesman said it's being investigated as a menacing incident. Officials planned to release additional video of the suspect later Wednesday.

District Court of Guam
and
District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICE

SECOND AMENDED VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT GUP 16-001

NOTES re Amendments:

1. Amended on January 27, 2016, to conform to judiciary policy requiring only a minimum of three (3) years of specialized experience and defining specialized experience.
2. Amended on January 27, 2016, to clarify that experience in police officer, FBI agent, customs agent, marshal, or similar positions, other than any criminal investigation experience, does not meet the requirements of specialized experience.

Position:	**Chief U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Officer**
Location:	Hagåtña, Guam
District Offices:	Hagåtña, Guam, and Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Salary:	Judiciary Salary Plan - JSP 15 – JSP 16 ($117,376 - $170,400) (Salary commensurate with experience plus 13.70% COLA, which is subject to change)
Closing Date:	February 19, 2016

Position Overview

The U.S. Probation Office for the District of Guam and the District for the Northern Mariana Islands is accepting applications for the position of Chief U.S Probation/Pretrial Services Officer. The Chief Probation/Pretrial Services Officer administers and manages federal probation and pretrial services for both district offices, and reports directly to the Honorable Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, Chief Judge for the District Court of Guam, and the Honorable Ramona V. Manglona, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Chief Probation/Pretrial Services Officer is under the administrative direction of the Chief Judge of both District Courts. The Probation Office maintains its main office in Hagåtña, Guam, and an office in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The candidate must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible to work in the United States.

Position Requirements

The full version of the Second Amended Vacancy Announcement is available at **http://www.gud.uscourts.gov** and **http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov.** The announcement includes the following: Representative Duties; Qualifications & Specialized Experience; Crediting of Substantial Management Experience; Court-Preferred Skills; Provisions for Law Enforcement Retirement Coverage; Physical & Medical Requirements as a Law Enforcement Officer; Background Investigation; and Conditions of Employment.

Application Process

Specific details on the application process are described in the full version of the Second Amended Vacancy Announcement. The judiciary's AO78 Application Form is available at the website.

All application documents must be complete and submitted by 5pm, Friday, February 19, 2016. Incomplete application documents will not be considered for review by the Court Selection Panel.

The most qualified candidates will be invited to a personal interview with the Court Selection Panel. Candidates selected for an interview will have to travel to the interview at their own expense.

The U.S. Probation Office reserves the right to amend or withdraw any announcement without written notice to all applicants. The U.S. Probation Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PROBATION OFFICER I

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Probation Officer in the Office of Adult Probation on Saipan which involves investigating, monitoring and/or supervising various levels and types of offenders' court ordered probation. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs all assigned duties relating to probationers' cases scheduled for court hearings;
- Investigates thoroughly offenders' personal history, background and environment;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the offenders' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Conducts interviews with probationers according to approved techniques in order to determine and clarify probationers' problems, and consulting with the supervisor as necessary, suggests constructive methods for dealing with such problems;
- Contacts public and private community agencies to secure their aid in solving probationers' problems. Maintains a continuing and ongoing relationship with the agencies as necessary;
- Documents facts and testifies in Court with respect to the Probationers' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while under supervision;
- Appears in Court for the purpose of providing testimony on Probation cases;
- Enforces Court Orders involving Probation cases;
- Attends public relations activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions; and
- Performs other law enforcement and public safety related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university. Have three (3) years experience in legal, law enforcement and/or court work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be $20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Life & Style

Accused Paltrow stalker discusses desire to marry actress

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An Ohio man charged with stalking Gwyneth Paltrow testified Wednesday that he sent her dozens of messages in the hope she might want to marry him despite her testifying against him in a previous stalking case.

Dante Soiu testified that he wanted his messages to show her unconditional love and friendship and that he had no animosity toward her over the earlier case, which sent him to a mental institution for several years. That case involved 500 messages, including sex toys and pornography, Soiu sent Paltrow in 1999 and 2000.

Soiu told jurors he wanted to let Paltrow know he was available and willing to marry her if the opportunity arose. His lawyers called him to testify in his own defense in the felony stalking case.

He sent Paltrow 66 messages and packages between 2009 and 2015, but none of the recent correspondence included pornography. A judge has said the earlier messages could be important to understanding Paltrow's fear of Soiu.

AP

In this Oct. 29, 2015 file photo, Gwyneth Paltrow arrives at the amfAR Inspiration Gala in Los Angeles.

Paltrow testified Monday she was afraid of Soiu and began crying when she expressed fears about her children's safety.

Deputy District Attorney Wendy Segall questioned why Paltrow would want to marry him after he had sent her so many lewd messages and she had to testify against him.

"I was trying to show I had changed and I had become a different person," Soiu said. "I wanted to show a new face towards her."

Soiu said he didn't want to scare the actress, but he was intent on her responding to him. "I wanted her to say flat out, 'I don't want to marry you,' " he said. "That way I would have a definite response from her."

He said he wrote to many public figures, including President Barack Obama, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin offering counsel on world affairs and solutions to problems.

He conceded that his notes to Paltrow were the only ones that expressed an interest in marriage. "Oh, no, I don't want to marry Putin," Soiu said.

Soiu was found not guilty by reason of insanity in 2000 in the previous case involving pornographic messages he sent to Paltrow. He was re-arrested last year after sending the actress new correspondence.

He said he was addicted to pornography at the time but said he is now on medication and considers himself healed.

The recent batch of letters described Soiu's intention to marry the actress as well as a pair of earrings he sent her in 2009 as a Christmas gift, some secondhand clothes and a Weight Watchers cookbook. He has also sent her religious books, and forwarded her letters he has sent to President Barack Obama and actress Angelina Jolie.

One letter described Paltrow "bowing to death," a reference the actress said she found disturbing.

Soiu, a self-described born again Christian from Columbus, Ohio, said he was referencing spiritual, not physical death, in his letters.

He said he hoped the Oscar winner would write him back if she wanted him to stop. "I wanted her to at least be a pen pal or at least say something," Soiu said.

Soiu testified he believed he had an understanding with Paltrow's lawyer that he could write to the actress until he was told to stop. He conceded that he never spoke or corresponded with the lawyer to reach that agreement.

Apple co-founder is bringing us an even nerdier 'Comic Con'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak had a front row seat as the personal computer began to reshape society. So it made perfect sense to him to bring a convention meshing technology with pop culture to Silicon Valley.

The convergence will occur March 18-20 in San Jose, California, with the debut of Silicon Valley Comic Con. It's a new twist on an idea that has brought together fans of science fiction, fantasy and superheroes at packed shows held around the world for years.

"I don't like doing the same thing as everyone else," Wozniak told The Associated Press Wednesday. So he teamed with four other partners to try something slightly different.

Throwing technology into the mix should ratchet up the nerd vibe that ripples through all Comic Cons. A sold-out crowd of about 30,000 engineers, entrepreneurs and pop-culture connoisseurs is expected to swarm into the Silicon Valley event.

The agenda includes a panel devoted to the quantum realm and an "app alley" featuring products from technology startups. The marquee attractions on the entertainment side include William Shatner from the original "Star Trek" and "Back To The Future" stars Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd and Lea Thompson.

Wozniak, 65, is confident the hybrid convention will be a hit.

"The emotions we have for technology now are the same as we get for movies, celebrities and the whole pop culture side of our lives," he said.

That veneration of technology helped turn Wozniak's late partner, Steve Jobs, into an icon—and his October 2011 death into a worldwide wake.

Wozniak himself has become better known through recent movies that retold the story of Jobs and Apple, as well as his guest appearances on TV shows such as "Dancing With The Stars" and "The Big Bang Theory." He now works at a Silicon Valley startup, Primary Data, and also spends about a third of the year on the road, mostly giving speeches and making other public appearances.

"Everyone I go in the world, people just say, 'Thank you, thank you,' even if they don't happen to own an Apple product," Wozniak said. "They are just saying thank you for being a part of it all and want to show their love."

Silicon Valley Comic Con is the first major event that Wozniak has backed since the early 1980s. While on leave from Apple following an airplane crash, he financed the US Festivals, a pair of three-day concerts held in the southern California desert. The events, which featured top acts such as The Police, The Talking Heads, The Clash, David Bowie and Fleetwood Mac, drew massive crowds yet still managed to lose about $26 million, according to Wozniak.

AP

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak is interviewed in San Francisco, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016. Wozniak is helping to create the inaugural Silicon Valley Comic Con, which will be held from March 18-20, 2016, in San Jose, Calif.

He said that won't happen at Silicon Valley Comic Con, which has already sold enough tickets to turn a profit. Some tickets, which cost from $25 to $99, are still available, though a sold-out crowd of about 30,000 people is expected.

"Ever since starting Apple, I have had the mentality that you should make a profit," Wozniak said. "That was Steve Jobs' big role (at Apple). He believed you start a company to make a profit because that is the only way you are going to go on to build other great things."

Jobs frowned upon Wozniak's involvement in the US Festivals and probably wouldn't have thought much of Silicon Valley Comic Con, according to Wozniak.

"He would have been at it in his very early days, but people change and personalities settle in," Wozniak said. "He became more of the businessman taking the world forward with things like the Apple computer."

Although Apple hasn't introduced another hit product since Jobs' death, Wozniak doesn't believe the company has lost the "innovation magic" that hatched the iPod, iPhone and iPad during the final decade of its late CEO's tenure.

"Apple is in great shape to innovate for the next 200 years, just with their cash (totaling $216 billion)," he said. "That buys a lot of failure. One of the things about innovation is you have to risk failure."

Wozniak is hoping Silicon Valley Comic Con inspires some of the engineers and other entrepreneurs in attendance to gamble on ideas that may seem a little kooky.

"A lot of science fiction starts out as a dream in your head where you go, 'Wow, that would be cool,' and then you have the actual technology people turn it into reality," Wozniak said. "That is the process of creation."

Cudlitz's 'Walking Dead' mustache has its own Twitter handle

NEW YORK (AP)—On "The Walking Dead," Michael Cudlitz's character, Abraham Ford, is known for his bright red hair and distinctive handlebar mustache.

His facial hair has so captivated fans of the zombie apocalypse drama that they've even created an off-color Twitter account for it at @CudlitzStache

"They play with it and they play with the fact that we don't acknowledge it," Cudlitz said in an interview this week. "It's like, 'What are you doing? I'm right here. I'm right under your nose.'"

Cudlitz said he usually doesn't comment on the Twitter page because he doesn't want to get in the way of fans having fun. But sometimes he just can't resist and will chime in with something like, "'Hey, knock it off,' or I say, 'I'm going to cut you off,'" adding that "everybody gets nervous when you say something like that."

He spoke just days before "The Walking Dead" returns with its midseason premiere Feb. 14 on AMC at 9 p.m. ET.

AP

In this July 10, 2015 file photo, Michael Cudlitz attends "The Walking Dead" panel on day 2 of Comic-Con International in San Diego, Calif.

Cudlitz said Season 6 picks up with Alexandria overrun with zombies.

"This is the ultimate test," Cudlitz said, of whether the new characters in the town have the mettle to survive. "In this episode we'll see who is able to rise to the occasion and who gets crushed by it."

Fans also get to meet Negan, the iconic villain of the comic books the series is based on, played by Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

"You're going to love Negan. You're going to love to hate Negan and that's what I think the show needs, someone that you love that is bad that is just as beloved as the characters that he's trying to kill."

As for Abraham, having found a way to move beyond his malaise, he's now feeling a bit frisky, which viewers saw when he hit on fellow survivor Sasha (Sonequa Martin-Green), even though he's already having an affair with Rosita (Christian Serratos).

Cudlitz said he doesn't see anything wrong with that.

"It's the zombie apocalypse. He's human."

Donald Trump skewered in Funny or Die film

NEW YORK (AP)—In one of the more elaborate and unexpected spoofs of Donald Trump, Johnny Depp has joined the ranks of the combed-over, starring in a mock documentary released the morning after the GOP candidate's primary victory in New Hampshire.

AP

Republican presidential candidate, businessman Donald Trump gives thumbs up to supporters during a primary night rally, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016, in Manchester, N.H. (

The comedy website Funny or Die on Wednesday unveiled "Donald Trump's The Art of the Deal: The Movie," a 50-minute video styled as Trump's own self-made TV movie adaptation of his 1987 best-selling advice book.

The film, shot clandestinely, stars Depp as Trump in a startling transformation for even the actor known for outlandish metamorphoses, like the Mad Hatter and Whitey Bulger. After Owen Burke, Funny or Die's editor in chief, came up with the concept, the site's co-founder Adam McKay (and director of the Oscar-nominated "The Big Short") called Depp and ran the idea by him.

"I pitched it to Johnny right there," said Burke. "The fact that Johnny said yes, we were just so excited. We couldn't believe it."

Along with Depp's leading performance, the movie is narrated by Ron Howard (who claims the film was discovered after "the Cybill Shepherd blouse fire of 1989"), features a theme song from Kenny Loggins and includes a cast of Alfred Molina, Jack McBrayer, Patton Oswalt, Stephen Merchant, Henry Winkler and Andy Richter.

Eagles band members to honor Glenn Frey at Grammys

AP

In this April 10, 2014 file photo, Glenn Frey appears at the 2014 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in New York.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Singer and songwriter Jackson Browne will join members of the Eagles in a tribute to the band's founding member Glenn Frey during Monday's 58th annual Grammy Awards.

Frey died Jan. 18 of complications from rheumatoid arthritis, acute ulcerative colitis and pneumonia at the age of 67. Browne will join the Eagles' Don Henley, Joe Walsh, Timothy B. Schmit and Bernie Leadon during a special performance during the show at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Browne and Frey wrote together early on in their careers, including the Eagles' first single in 1972 and one of their signature songs, "Take It Easy."

The Grammy Awards will be broadcast live from Los Angeles on CBS at 8 p.m. EST.

Familiar Stars Hollow faces back for 'Gilmore Girls' reboot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Some familiar Stars Hollow faces will be on hand for the "Gilmore Girls" reboot.

Netflix says that the four-episode series will include Milo Ventimiglia (Vhen-TEE-mill-ya) as Jess Mariano and Matt Czuchry (ZOO-kree) as Logan Huntzberger.

Also returning are Liza Weil as Paris Geller and Yanic Truesdale as Michel Gerard, Netflix said Wednesday.

They'll be joining previously announced stars Lauren Graham and Alexis Bledel, who are reprising their roles as mom Lorelai and daughter Rory from the 2000 to 2007 broadcast network series.

Original cast members Scott Patterson, Kelly Bishop, Keiko Agena and Sean Gunn also will be part of the new series, created by Amy Sherman-Palladino.

The show's title and premiere date have yet to be announced.

Parenting at ex's house is an issue for new wife

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced father who has recently remarried. I have parenting time with my children one weeknight and every other weekend.

My children have told me that during the week they prefer doing their homework at their mother's home. They say that by the time I pick them up, prepare dinner and they start their homework, it's already time to return to their mother's. They are at ages where homework assignments can take several hours.

My ex is OK with me spending time with them at her home. She uses the time to run errands and do other things she may not have time for during the week. When there's no school, I bring the kids to our house. All weekend parenting time takes place at my home.

The problem is, my present wife can't stand that I spend time with my children at my ex's home. She doesn't understand why I won't bring them here. I feel there's ample opportunity on the weekends for my kids to be at our house and for her to build a relationship with them. Academics are crucial at this point in their lives.

So—do I disrupt their homework to accommodate my wife? Or should I continue the arrangement that my kids, my former wife and I have established?

PARENTING TIME IN NEBRASKA

DEAR PARENTING TIME: It appears you have married a woman who is insecure. Your children's reasons for wanting to stay at their mother's during the week seem valid. You didn't mention how long you and wife No. 2 have been married, but if it's a brand-new marriage, point out that during school breaks and summer vacation she will have the midweek time to bond with your children that she's craving.

DEAR ABBY: My employer hosted a professional development workshop on workplace etiquette and conduct related to gender and personal identity. The facilitator told us to make sure we always use the gender pronoun preferred by the person we are talking to or about. But she didn't give any guidance about how to know what those pronouns are if it's not clear from someone's outward appearance. Additionally, I have learned I'm not very good at guessing.

Is there a polite way to ask someone if they prefer to be called he or she? What about people who don't use either? It seems like there's a lot of opportunity to offend someone. I'd hate to upset anyone by using the wrong pronoun, but I also don't want to admit to the person that I can't tell if he or she is a man or woman. It's like walking in a minefield.

WHAT'S RIGHT?

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

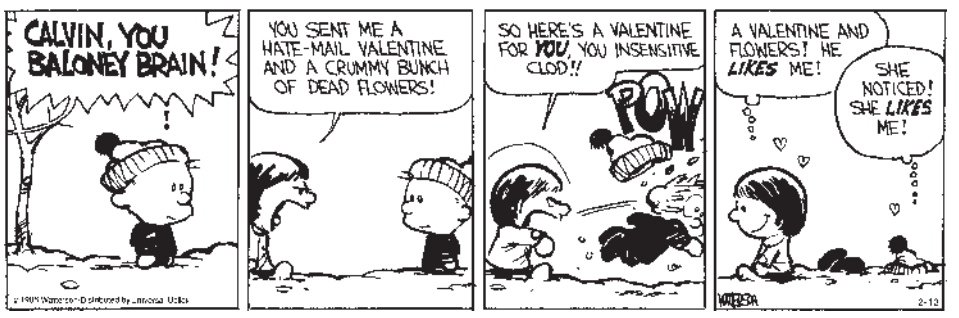
DEAR WHAT'S RIGHT: This is such new territory, it may take a while for the general public to adjust. However, the person's name should be a clue about which gender he or she identifies with. While I wouldn't recommend asking what gender the person is, it wouldn't be inappropriate to use the word "they" when speaking about the person because that pronoun is being used more in the singular.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

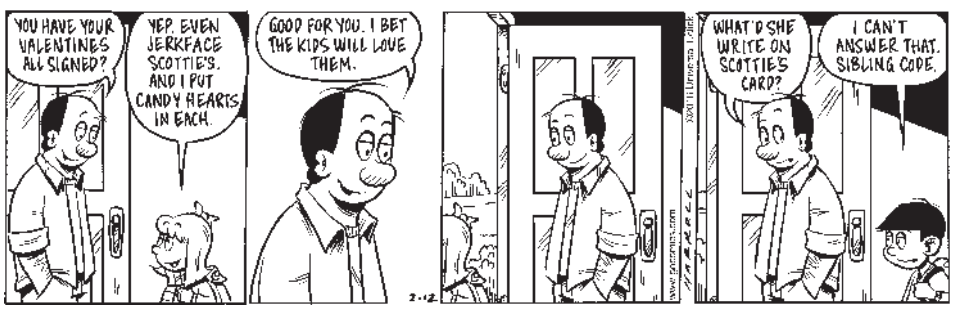

CALVIN, YOU BALONEY BRAIN!
YOU SENT ME A HATE-MAIL VALENTINE AND A CRUMMY BUNCH OF DEAD FLOWERS!
SO HERE'S A VALENTINE FOR YOU, YOU INSENSITIVE CLOD!!
POW
A VALENTINE AND FLOWERS! HE LIKES ME!
SHE NOTICED! SHE LIKES ME!
2-12

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU HAVE YOUR VALENTINES ALL SIGNED?
YEP. EVEN JERKFACE SCOTTIE'S. AND I PUT CANDY HEARTS IN EACH.
GOOD FOR YOU. I BET THE KIDS WILL LOVE THEM.
WHAT'D SHE WRITE ON SCOTTIE'S CARD?
I CAN'T ANSWER THAT. SIBLING CODE.
2-12

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS?
I'M A SPINELESS, BROWN-NOSING YES-MAN WHO NEVER CHALLENGES OPINIONS.
AND YOU THINK THAT'S A STRENGTH?
I DON'T KNOW, DO YOU?
2/12

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Skirt edge
4 Bovary, e.g. (Abbr.)
7 Seething
12 Year in Cancún
13 Slithery fish
14 Island porch
15 Jury enclosure
16 Start of a Muske-teer unity motto
18 Here (Fr.)
19 France's longest river
20 Elling-ton's "Take — Train"
22 Born
23 Office plant
27 License to drill?
29 "Heav-ens!"
31 "Bless you!" preceder
34 Rise
35 Moon of Mars
37 Church seat
38 Tennis ace Sampras
39 Acapulco gold
41 Car
45 Opinions
47 U-boat, for one
48 "No, No, Nanette" song
52 Actress Hagen
53 Opening night
54 Computer acronym
55 Sleep phenom
56 Entrap
57 Have bills
58 Pro vote

DOWN
1 Custom
2 Tenny-son's "— Arden"
3 Courage
4 Repast
5 Honey-dews
6 Miss —, "Dallas" matriarch
7 Lotion additive
8 Rail
9 Lennon's lady
10 Author Fleming
11 Fish story
17 Pebbles' dad
21 Photo-shop maker
23 Islamic decree
24 Historic time
25 Pres. after LBJ
26 Homer's neighbor
28 "Cock-a-doodle-—!"
30 Language suffix
31 PC program, for short
32 "Evita" narrator
33 Stolen
36 Evening in Paris
37 Native American gathering
40 Chic again
42 Loan shark's practice
43 Private pupil
44 Sasha or Malia
45 Cast a ballot
46 Not all
48 Gridiron scores (Abbr.)
49 Still, in verse
50 Lawyers' org.
51 Bear hair

Solution time: 26 mins.

H	E	H		J	E	L	L		P	A	W	S
A	S	E		C	L	I	A		O	P	A	L
S	P	A	R	K	L	E	R		T	O	N	C
		R	A	Y		D	R	O	O	P	E	D
Y	O	K	E	L	S		Y	U	M			
A	D	E		L	O	X		R	A	M	P	S
K	E	N	T		N	Y	C		C	A	R	E
S	A	S	H	A		Z	A	P		B	A	R
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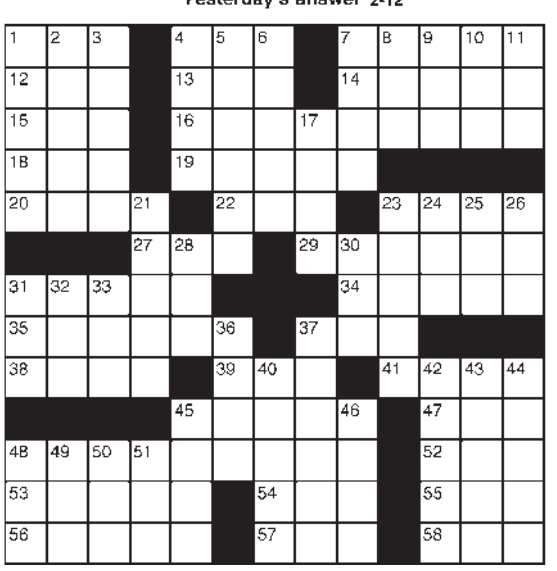
J	G	L	I		M	A	L	A	R	K	E	Y
L	E	I	S		P	R	A	M		E	S	E
L	E	O	S		H	E	S	A		P	C	A

Yesterday's answer 2-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brad Keselowski, 32; Christina Ricci, 36; Darren Aronofsky, 47; Josh Brolin, 48.

Happy Birthday: Consider your options and take action. Be the driving force behind getting things done. Don't let anyone take over your life. It's important to recognize what will make you happy and then dedicate your time, effort and knowledge to reaching your destination. Choose to surround yourself with people who work with you, not against you. Your numbers are 1, 12, 15, 24, 28, 30, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may find it difficult to avoid doing or saying something you'll regret. Concentrate on what you can do to improve yourself instead of focusing on the people around you and what they are doing or saying. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Tie up loose ends and set your mind free from worry for the weekend. You will impress people with your work ethic and your flexible way of handling situations. A chance for romance is on the horizon. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Rise above any criticism that comes your way. Take note of what's being said and make subtle changes to steer clear of negativity in the future. Don't promise to do something if you can't follow through. Protect your reputation and stand behind your word. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Consider how to implement the changes necessary to end up with exactly what you want. Being creative with your space will help you make room to initiate your plans. Romance, contracts and finances look promising. Don't let emotional manipulation get in your way. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take charge before someone else does. Nothing is worth arguing about. Set your goal and head to the finish line. If someone doesn't want to follow you, that's OK. As long as you do your own thing and satisfy your needs, you'll be just fine. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take time to play, but don't go over budget trying to outdo someone else. Physical and mental challenges should be invigorating, not dangerous or costly. Live in the moment and be true to yourself. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may have to ruffle a few feathers to get what you want. Being a peacekeeper is admirable, but not if it comes at too great a personal expense. Size up your personal situation, be honest about what you want and follow through with your plans. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Participation is vital if you want to bring about worthwhile change. Greater opportunities will arrive through the people you encounter while helping others. Take care of someone you love, and you will improve your relationship. A change in the way you live looks promising. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make travel plans or check out a new method of acquiring information or techniques that you can use to get ahead. A domestic change will help to stabilize your emotions. Stick close to home and protect your belongings. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stick to your game plan regardless of what others do. It's up to you to take responsibility for what transpires in your life. Don't expect everyone to like your decisions. Walk away from impossible situations. Treat yourself to something nice. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Use your imagination, and you will come up with a plan that will help put an end to a problem you have been dealing with. Don't let someone else's uncertainty bring you down. Do whatever makes you happy. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Learn from past mistakes. Show more flexibility and try not to go too strongly against the current. You've been given a second chance, and with positive energy and the willingness to compromise, you can achieve what you set out to do. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are smart, progressive and ambitious. You are curious and inventive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7			3			9	
9		6			7			8
				5			6	
	4							
8		3		2		7		5
							2	
	5			1				
7			4			3		9
	8			6			1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	1	6	7	2	3	9	8	5
7	3	9	1	5	8	4	6	2
8	5	2	9	6	4	1	7	3
1	8	7	6	9	5	3	2	4
9	6	5	4	3	2	8	1	7
3	2	4	8	7	1	5	9	6
6	9	3	5	8	7	2	4	1
5	7	1	2	4	9	6	3	8
2	4	8	3	1	6	7	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FINDING THE PERFECT PILLOW Solution: 6 letters

H	E	C	E	R	U	T	A	V	R	U	C	N	S	E
E	Y	U	E	V	N	O	I	T	I	S	O	P	P	L
A	M	P	R	R	I	F	I	G	H	T	L	A	A	E
D	T	B	O	O	V	T	B	E	T	E	H	R	D	V
R	F	O	R	A	P	I	A	O	D	S	E	A	D	A
E	O	L	E	O	L	E	C	R	D	O	E	B	I	R
S	S	S	T	F	I	L	A	A	O	Y	N	M	N	T
T	S	T	A	T	I	D	E	N	L	C	K	U	G	N
U	E	E	W	K	N	B	E	R	A	L	E	L	T	E
F	R	R	L	A	O	E	E	R	G	T	O	D	S	M
F	T	A	T	R	G	X	C	R	E	E	U	R	O	N
I	T	S	C	N	E	L	A	C	E	D	N	R	F	G
N	A	I	A	T	H	R	O	W	A	P	O	I	A	I
G	M	L	A	N	T	I	S	N	O	R	E	W	C	L
Y	F	L	U	F	F	Y	C	U	S	H	I	O	N	A

©2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/12

Accent, Alignment, Antisnore, Body, Bolster, Cervical, Cotton, Curvature, Cushion, Decorative, Donut, Down, Embroidered, European, Fiber, Fight, Flange, Fluffy, Headrest, Hypoallergenic, Knee, Lace, Latex, Lumbar, Mattress, Microbeads, Natural, Padding, Position, Roll, Shape, Sofa, Soft, Standard, Stuffing, Talk, Throw, Travel, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Rooney

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Lay it on thick

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find today's solution in classified section

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ACCOUNTANT

Full time accountant position, responsible for providing accounting services such as recording, examining, estimating, recommend, advice, analyze and interpreting accounting records through the use of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Position includes both administrative and accounting goals, the financial plans to meet those goals, supervising the work of accounting staff to ensure timely filings of financial and tax reports. Qualifications: Bachelor Degree in Accounting or its equivalent; must be a U.S. Certified Public Accountant (foreign equivalent license is acceptable); at least two (2) years experience in general accounting work.

Send Resume: David L. Bush, General Manager, Hawaiian Rock Products, PMB 139, PPP P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; by facsimile (670) 288-0408; or by e-mail to dbush@hawaiianrock.com

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Starting @ $599/mo.

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For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

Backhoe for Rent

For inquiries, please call **285-0478**

- Security Services
- General Help Supply Services
- Heavy Equipment Rental
- Auto & Heavy Equipment Repair Shop

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REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
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235-6527/28 or 285-1317

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

FOR SALE

Small Restaurant
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Serious buyers only
Call: 285-0649

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Secretaries & Administrative Assistant

- Knowledge of Administrative & Clerical procedures & systems, Intuit Quickbooks Software.
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- Knowledge of installation & configuration of computer hardware and its operating system.

Apply in person and bring resume.
No phone call please.
P.O. Box 501921
Tel. 233-9531 • Fax: 233-9532

GPPC Marine, LLC.
Job Vacancy Announcement

(02) Able Bodied Seaman
Rate: $6.10 - 6.60/ hour or commensurate to experience and qualifications.

Qualifications: Must be a high school graduate or minimum of two years experience as an Able Bodied Seaman.

The above position will be closed on February 19, 2016.
Interested applicants may apply at GPPC Marine, LLC. Office located at Tun Kioshi, Kileleman Rd. As Perdido, Saipan 96950.
A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted.
Skills testing maybe required.

GPPC Marine, LLC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than February 19, 2016.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

www.saipantribune.com

Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 234-6184/235-1201, Fax No. (670) 235-4751, www.mountcarmelsaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT for SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017

Mount Carmel School, a private Catholic elementary and secondary school, is accepting applications for the following positions:

Position	Minimum Requirements	Closing Date
Elementary Classroom Teacher (2 positions)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education or related field.	February 14, 2016
Japanese Language Teacher (For Elementary, Middle and High School)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Japanese language or related field.	
STEM Teacher (Computer / Digital Arts & Mathematics)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in computer science or related field.	February 24, 2016
STEM Teacher (High School Science & Advanced Placement Science Courses)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in science or related field.	
Vice-Principal for Curriculum & Instruction	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in education or related field.	

Interested applicants may obtain a detailed job description with qualification requirements and employment application forms at the Mount Carmel School Business Office, Monday through Friday, 8:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Required documents needed to complete an application package are: copy of degree, transcript, resume, police clearance (from jurisdiction of residence within the last three months), and FBI Clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made). Complete application packages may be submitted to Mount Carmel School, Attn: Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, President. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

Celebrating 64 Years of Faith, Excellence and Success.

Fully Accredited by North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI)

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the follow positions:

Advertising Sales Agent
Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence ad prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, February 25, 2016.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Apex Builder's Inc. dba K Parts
Job Vacancy Announcement

(02) Machinist
Rate: $6.10 - $7.60 per hour or commensurate to experience and job qualifications.
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a Machinist or related field.

(02) Sales Person
Rate: $6.10 - $6.60 per hour
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of two to five years work experience as a sales person. Able to sell merchandises such as, light/heavy vehicles, motor vehicle parts, heavy equipment parts and appliances to consumers. Greet customers and assist their needs and wants, as well as to explain the merchandises and its usage, operation and proper care. Capable of recommending, selecting and helping customers obtain desired and needed products. Calculate prices, tally purchases, compute receivables and process cash and credit payments. Prepare sale slips or sale contracts and place special orders to the suppliers for the customer's desired items. Enjoys dealing with customers and answering their questions regarding the store merchandises.

The above position will be closed on Friday, February 19, 2016. Interested applicants may apply at Apex Builders Inc. office located at Tun Kioshi, Kileleman Rd. As Perdido, Saipan 96950. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing maybe required.

Apex Builder's Inc. dba K parts is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Customers First
TRIPLE J
is now accepting applications for the following position:

MARKETING COORDINATOR

The marketing coordinator will assist the marketing team with day to day marketing tasks and coordinating marketing projects and activities for Triple J group of companies in Saipan, as requested

DUTIES

- Assisting with the production of artwork, sourcing images, etc.
- Produce clear and concise written correspondence in the form of letters and emails.
- Interface with internal and external customers along with marketing vendors.
- Act as internal liaison and develop report structure to assist in prioritizing departmental projects.
- Assist the VP of Marketing and Marketing Supervisor in managing events and sponsorships and ensure the execution while maximizing all possible opportunities.
- Assist and support the marketing team in managing, writing content and minor creative conceptual for company newsletter, social media, email campaigns, etc.
- Assist and support the marketing team in analyzing results of marketing campaigns and programs.
- Be aware of the marketing efforts and promotion of the competition.
- Other support and administrative activities as needed and as assigned by the VP of Marketing.

Salary will be commensurate with knowledge and experience
Please submit resume by way of e-mail to the attention of the Director of Human Resources .
Email: frankada@triplejguam.com

Saipan Tribune
Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Opinion
Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competitio
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
SUDOKU
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
SRCR welcomed nine new members in 2011

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!
For opportunities contact us at
235-6397

CORAL OCEAN GOLF RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Bartender Salary : $6.05 to $8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least one year experienced working as a Bartender. Knowledge in different variety of cocktail, tropical, alcoholic or non-alcohol drinks. Must be able to create and possess broad ideas for mixing, creating and serving drinks. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. A ""People Person"", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customers. Computer literate. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) A/C Technician Salary : $6.05 to $8.50
High School Diploma or eqivalent. At least to three years working experienced in the related fiels. Must have apprenticeship or on-the-job training and certification. E.P.A licensure is a plus. Knowledgeable in installing, maintaining and repairing heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration systems, testing pipe or tubing joints, connections for leaks, testing electrical circuits,repairing or replacing defective equipment, components, or wiring, changing filters, cleaning ducts, or refilling non-toxic refrigerants. Must be able to perform physical activities, such as but not limited to, lifting equipment atleast 50lbs, bending, standing, climbng, can be able to work under the sun, and can stand for prolonged period if time. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(5) General Maintenance Salary : $6.05 to $8.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least two to three years of work related experienced. Engineering Degree or related courses is an asset but not required. Knowledge in keeping machines, mechanical equipment or other structure of an establishment in repair. Experience involving generators, water pumps, irrigation, deepwell, pipe fitting, insulating, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment, building repair that may include carpentry, plumbing, masonry and painting task. Must be able to perform physical activities, such as but not limited to, lifting equipment atleast 50lbs, bending, standing, climbng, can be able to work under the sun, and can stand for prolonged period if time. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Electrician Salary: $6.05 to $8.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least twp to three years working experienced in the related field. Must be able to operate required tools, equipment, assemble, install, maintain, repair electrical aparatus, estimate cost of electrical materials. Knowledgeable in electrical theory and methods, applicable and federel code and regulations pertaining electricla trade, computer logic and programming, inspection and identification, and distribution of electrical system. Experienced in fabrication is preferred but not required.Must be able to perform physical activities, such as but not limited to, lifting equipment atleast 50lbs, bending, standing, climbng, can be able to work under the sun, and can stand for prolonged period if time. . Must be able to handle hazardous materials safety and tolarate exposure to electrical and other environmental hazards. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(3) Greenskeepers Salary: $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least three months of work related experience and knowledge in maintaining and monitoring daily operations of the golf course greens. Requires advanced knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices, handling chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides. Knowledge of safe, efficient mechanical equipment such as tractors, mowers, and driving other motorized equipment. Knowledge of diesel and gasoline equipment operations. Ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to follow oral and written directions. Must be able to work under the sun and can stand for prolonged period of time and capable of lifting at least 50lbs. Pesticide applicator license preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(3) Cook (International Cuisine) Salary: $6.05 to $8.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. Six months to a year of work related experienced. Culinary Degree preferred but not required. Excellent interpersonal, neat nad well groomed at all times. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time.Full understanidng of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. And a highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production of International Cuisine, like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrees. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Room Division Manager Salary Range : $11.37 to $15.50
Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality or Business Management or equivalent. At least five years working excperience management level in an hotel industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer, personal services and interpret financial data like budgets and expense reports, requiring computer skills, mathematics, and basic accounting. Speaking additional language like Japanese, Chinese and Korean language is an advantage. Knowledge in hotel system Fidelio or Opera is preferred but not required. Experienced handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset. A "People Person". Must be able to stand for a prolonged period of time. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Landscapers Salary : $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. Need anywhere from a few days to a few months of training. Considerable knowledge of methods of landscaping, occupational hazards and safety precautions applicable for grounds keeping, knows proper use of chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides, cultivation, weed control, seeding, planting of trees and nursing beds. Ability to use hand and power tools and equipment. Knowledge of use and care of motorized equipment and hand/power tools used in grounds maintenance work. Job maybe require walking, standing, bending, lifting, climbing in a long period of time. Willing to work in flexible shifts, in all weather conditions with excessive dusts or dirt, evenings, weekend and holidays.

(3) Waiter/Waitress Salary Range : $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma one equivalent. At least three months of work related experience. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. A "People Person", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customers. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(7) Housekeepers Salary Range : $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. Few months to one year related work experienced. Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrival. Must be able to understand and follow instructions and out task in order and willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms or duties assigned in everyday. Has the ability to be extent flexibility that includes bending, twisting and lifting. Computer literacy is preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekend and holidays. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners.

Front Desk Clerk (2-Korean Speaking) Salary: $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least six months to a year of related work experience in the hotel and golf course industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset but not required. A "People Person", be able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Physically capable to lift at least 50lbs and have a valid driver's CNMI license. be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners. Knowledge in the game of game of golf preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Housekeeping Supervisor Salary: $6.05 to $9.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least need anywhere from a few months to one year of working with experienced employees. Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal service including handling large group of arrival. Must have the ability to supervise, experience performing housekeeping duties, hardworking, leadership ability, keen observation skills, and be detail oriented. willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms or duties assigned in everyday. Has the ability to be extent flexibility that included bending, twisting and lifting. Computer literate. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekend and holidays. Be able to stand prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners.

(3) Cook (Western Cuisine) Salary: $6.05 to $8.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. Six months to a year of work related experienced. Culinary Degree preferred but not required. Excellent interpersonal, neat nad well groomed at all times. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time.Full understanidng of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. And a highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production of Western Cuisine, like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrees. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Golf Operation Manager Salary Range : $11.37 to $15.50
Bachelor's Degree Business Management or equivalent. At least five years working excperience management level in the capacity of Manager in related operation. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer, personal services and interpret financial data like budgets and expense reports, requiring computer skills, mathematics, and basic accounting. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. Requires advanced knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices; a working knowledge of golf facility construction principles, practices and methods; and a thorough understanding of the rules and strategies of the game of golf. Requires excellent oral and written communication and knowledge in the game of golf. May require current certificate or licensing as pesticide applicator. Must be able to work under the sun, can stand for prolonged period of time and can lift at least 50lbs . Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Suwaso Corporation would like to invite all qualified US workers to send their resume/application form to hr.copspn@gmail.com or submit it to Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Human Resources Department no later than February 15, 2016 @11:00 am. Please include at least two recommendation letters. No phone calls please.

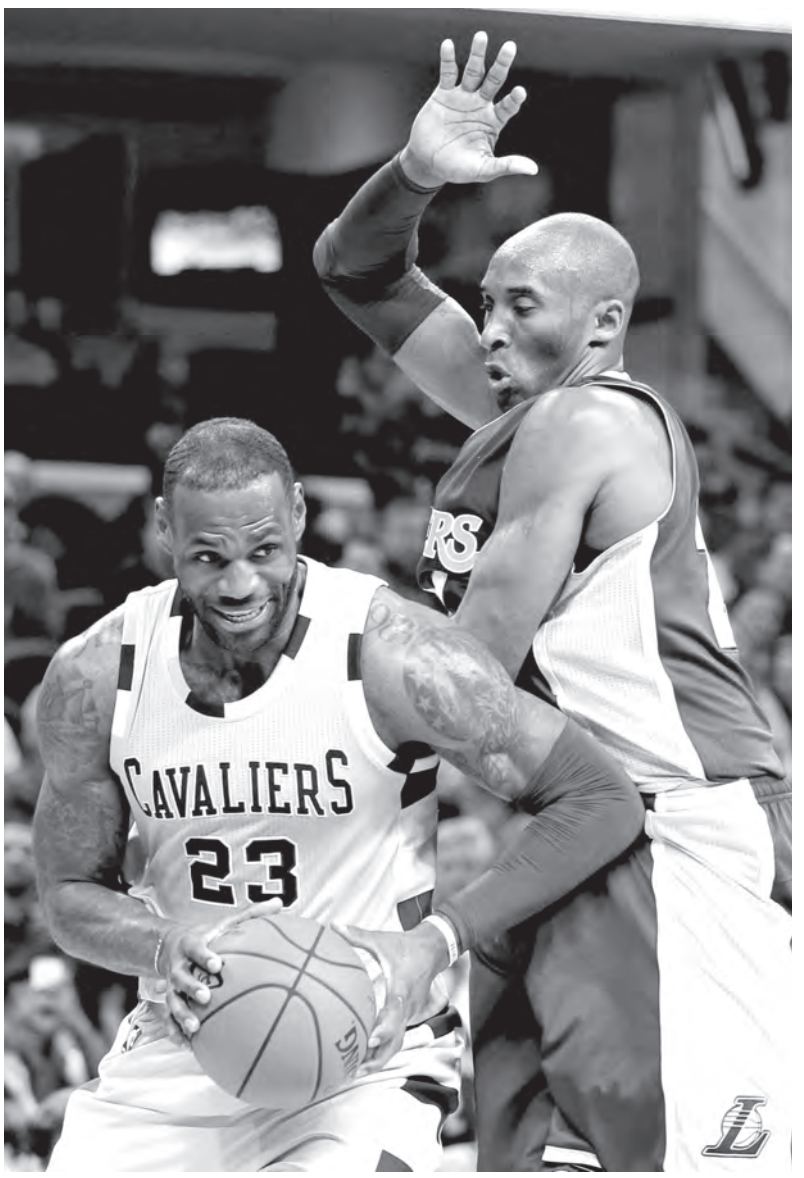
Kobe, LeBron share court as Cavs beat Lakers

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kobe Bryant's final game in Cleveland was reduced to a sideshow when Cavaliers forward Kevin Love re-injured his surgically repaired left shoulder in the first half of a 120-111 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night.

Kyrie Irving scored a season-high 35 points and LeBron James 29 for the Cavs, who head into the All-Star break with one of their "Big 3" injured.

Love quickly left the floor late in the second quarter after he got hurt while working in the post against Bryant. He did not return in the second half, and the Cavs did not provide any specifics about his injury.

Bryant finished with 17 points in his last performance in Cleveland. Lou Williams scored 28 to lead the Lakers, who have dropped 13 of 15.



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, left, drives around Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant in the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won, 120-111.

Warriors 112, Suns 104

In Phoenix, Stephen Curry nearly had a triple-double before sitting out the fourth quarter, and Golden State stormed into the All-Star break on an 11-game winning streak with a victory over free-falling Phoenix.

Curry had 26 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for the defending NBA champions. At 48-4, the Warriors have the best record through 52 games in NBA history, one win better than the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls and 1966-67 Philadelphia 76ers. Those Bulls finished the season with a league-record 72 wins.

Klay Thompson added 24 points for Golden State.

Archie Goodwin scored 20 and Markieff Morris 19 for the Suns, who have lost nine straight and 24 of 26. Rookie guard Devin Booker added 15 points and a career-best 10 assists.

Spurs 98, Magic 96

In Orlando, Florida Kawhi Leonard scored 29 points and drilled a jumper from the tip of the key with 0.9 on the clock to lift San Antonio to a win over Orlando.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 21 points and Patty Mills added 17 points and seven assists for the Spurs, who won their fourth straight game.

Evan Fournier, whose 3-pointer tied the game with 13.3 seconds left, led Orlando with 28 points. Nikola Vucevic had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Victor Oladipo scored 14 and Elfrid Payton had 13 points and seven assists.

Payton missed an open layup at the buzzer that could have tied it.

Kings 114, Sixers 110

In Philadelphia, DeMarcus Cousins had 28 points and 12 rebounds, and Darren Collison scored 21 of his 25 points after halftime to lead Sacramento to a comeback victory.

Rajon Rondo added 14 points, eight rebounds and 15 assists for the Kings, who snapped a four-game losing streak overall and six-game skid on the road while winning for just the second time in their last 10. It also allowed Sacramento to enter the break on a positive note following a tumultuous week that included rumors of the impending dismissal of coach George Karl.

Rookie Jahlil Okafor tied his career high with 26 points to go with 10 rebounds, and Robert Covington scored a career-high 29 points for the 76ers, who played without top big man Nerlens Noel.

Celtics 139, Clippers 134, OT

In Boston, Isaiah Thomas had 36 points and 11 assists, including a fade-away jumper that sent the game to an extra period, to help Boston overtake Los Angeles in overtime.

Jared Sullinger added 21 points and 11 rebounds. Jae Crowder finished with 19 points, and Avery Bradley added 18 points as the Celtics won their eighth straight at home.

Boston played the second half without big man Kelly Olynyk. He left late in the first half with a bruised right shoulder.

The Clippers led by five late in regulation, but went without a field goal for more than three minutes.

Chris Paul led the Clippers with 35 points and 13 assists. J.J. Redick added 27 points and DeAndre Jordan finished with 21 points and 16 rebounds.

Hawks 113, Bulls 90

In Chicago, Jeff Teague had 17 points and eight assists, Al Horford scored 16 and Atlanta routed struggling Chicago.

Dennis Schroder had 18 points and hit three of his team's 13 3-pointers. Paul Millsap scored 15, and the Southeast Division leaders headed into the All-Star break on a winning note after back-to-back losses to last-place Orlando.

The Hawks led by five at halftime and broke it open in the third quarter, sending the sloppy Bulls to their fourth straight loss and 13th in 18 games.

Pau Gasol had 20 points and 10 rebounds for Chicago after being selected Tuesday to his sixth All-Star team as a replacement for injured Bulls teammate Jimmy Butler.

Wolves 117, Raptors 112

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 35 points and 11 rebounds, and Minnesota came back from 18 points down to stun Toronto.

Canadian star Andrew Wiggins scored 13 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, including a jumper with under 2 minutes to go that gave Minnesota a 112-109 lead. Ricky Rubio had 19 points, eight assists and eight rebounds to outplay All-Star Kyle Lowry, and the Wolves used a huge advantage at the free-throw line to close out a team that had won 14 of its last 15 games.

DeMar DeRozan scored 35 points for the Raptors, who head home to host All-Star weekend beginning on Friday.

Pelicans 100, Jazz 96

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis capped a 19-point night with a running left-handed hook and 3-pointer in the final minute, and New Orleans beat Utah to snap the Jazz's seven-game winning streak.

Jrue Holiday scored 21 points for the Pelicans, who won their second straight. Davis scored all but three of his points in the second half. His running hook from about 5 feet out gave New Orleans a 94-92 lead with 59 seconds remaining. His 3 made it 97-93 with 35 seconds left.

Derrick Favors scored 29 and Gordon Hayward, 21 for Utah, but each missed a free throw in the final minute.

Rodney Hood added 15 for Utah, but the Jazz turned the ball over 17 times and missed 14 of 21 shots from 3-point range.

Grizzlies 109, Nets 90

In New York, Mike Conley scored 20 points, Jeff Green had 12 of his 18 in the third quarter, and Memphis beat Brooklyn in its first game since losing Marc Gasol to a broken right foot.

The Grizzlies unleashed a strong perimeter attack in the absence of their franchise center, making seven 3-pointers in a 39-point third quarter that blew open the game.

Zach Randolph finished with 15 points for the Grizzlies, who were coming off consecutive losses, both in overtime.

Brook Lopez led Brooklyn with 20 points.

Nuggets 103, Pistons 92

In Auburn Hills, Will Barton scored 15 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, and Denver held off depleted Detroit, which was without three starters.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope has been out with a core muscle strain, and the team announced before the game that Reggie Jackson and Ersan Ilyasova had been ill and would be sidelined as well.

Denver led by eight early in the fourth, but the Pistons closed to 83-82 after consecutive 3-pointers by Anthony Tolliver. Randy Foye made a 3 to halt that run, and Denver was able to hold onto its lead the rest of the way.

Andre Drummond had 15 points and 17 rebounds for Detroit but shot 7 of 22 from the field.

Hornets 117, Pacers 95

In Indianapolis, Kemba Walker scored 25 points and Jeremy Lamb had 16 as suddenly surging Charlotte rolled to a victory over Indiana.

Six players scored in double figures for the Hornets (27-26), who won their third straight—and their first at Indiana since November 2008.

Paul George led the Pacers with 22 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Charlotte started the second quarter on a 17-4 run to take a 42-29 lead.

And with Indiana's defense struggling to stay in front of the Hornets' deft drivers and potent 3-point shooters, the Pacers never had a chance.

SIDEBAR

Impact Hack-a-Someone tactic having on NBA is growing issue

MIAMI (AP)—San Antonio's first play of the 2008-09 season was designed and executed perfectly. Spurs' center Tim Duncan didn't bother jumping for the opening tap, conceding it to Phoenix's Shaquille O'Neal. Five seconds later, Michael Finley wrapped his arms around O'Neal for an intentional foul.

O'Neal was livid. That is, until he saw Spurs coach Gregg Popovich breaking into hysterics and giving him two thumbs up.

Yes, Hack-a-Shaq used to be a laughing matter. It isn't anymore.

The increasing strategy of fouling bad foul shooters on purpose to send them to the line and slow their team's offense to a crawl has raised the ire of everyone from booing fans to NBA Commissioner Adam Silver. The antics will likely be something the league tries to curb in the coming months.

But no one seems to know how, and not many seem sure the rules need changing to protect the free-throw challenged.

"It's ugly, but I'm going to do it," Popovich said. "If you don't want me to do it anymore, learn how to shoot a free throw."

O'Neal is retired, but Hack-a-Shaq—or as it can also be called these days, Hack-a-Dwight, Hack-a-Dre, Hack-a-DeAndre and Hack-a-Hassan—is still around in its aesthetically awful glory. It can turn games into free-throw contests, many coaches and players openly dislike it and it primarily targets a few who are notoriously bad at the foul line.

"I hate it," Popovich said.

"I hate it," added Miami guard Dwyane Wade.

They're not alone, though not everyone speaks with such venom.

"In baseball you can walk a player," Atlanta's Al Horford said. "There are different things you can to do impact the game. If they want to change it, it's their call but it doesn't bother me."

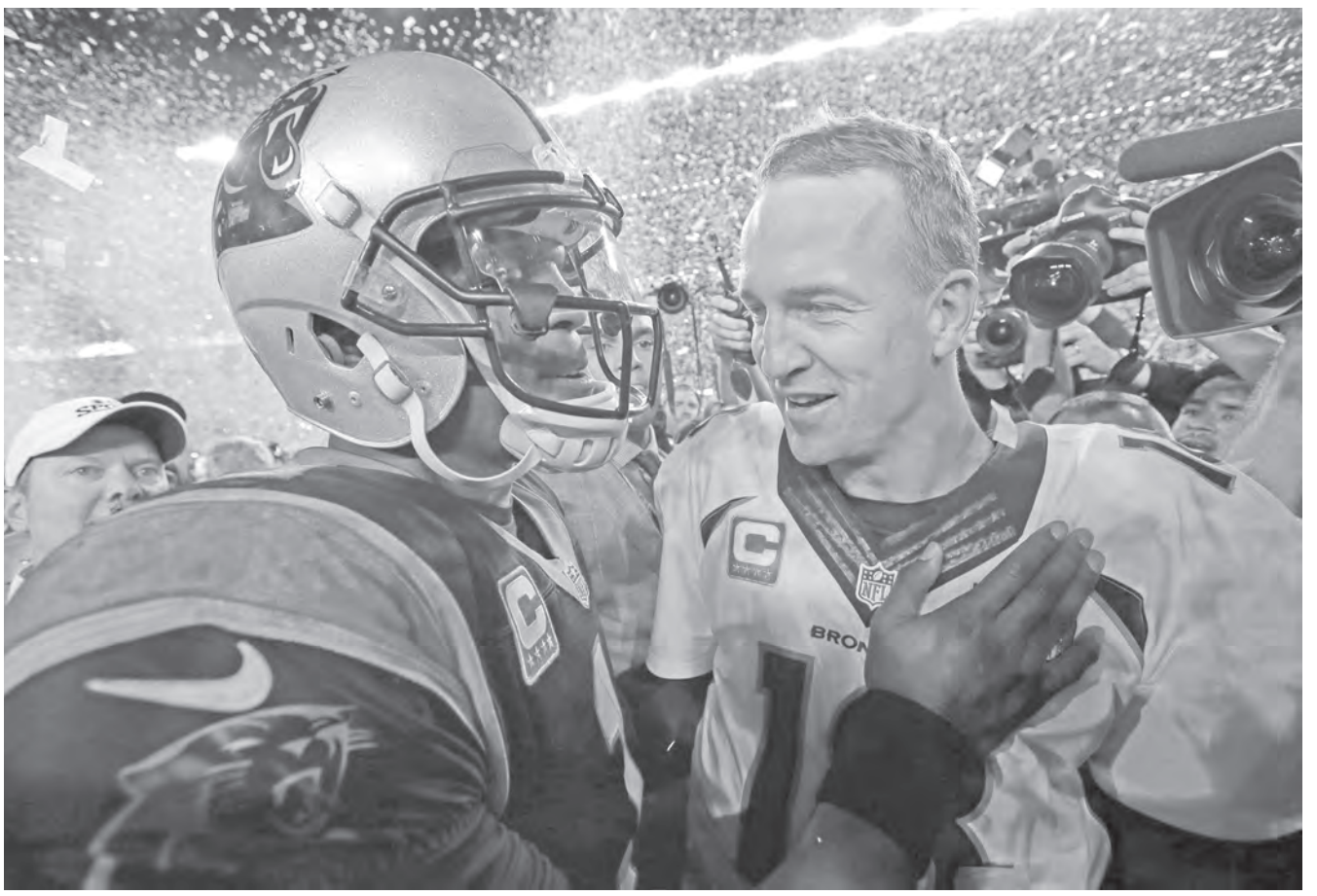
If the league was to change things, one option would be to have such fouls carry the same penalty a flagrant does, two shots and retained possession.

"I think that sets a horrible example for kids, honestly," Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant said. "You can't protect guys because they can't shoot free throws. We're getting paid a lot of money to make a damn free throw, dude. I think it sets a bad precedent.

"I wouldn't change it."

And really, only a few guys are worth even trying to use the ploy against.

Panthers turn page to 2016 after Super Bowl loss



AP

Denver Broncos' Peyton Manning, right, greets Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton (1) after the NFL Super Bowl 50 football game Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016, in Santa Clara, Calif. The Broncos won, 24-10.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Dave Gettleman has been on both ends of the spectrum when it comes to Super Bowl -- winning two with the New York Giants as a front office assistant and losing on Sunday as general manager of the Carolina Panthers.

"This side stinks," Gettleman said Tuesday.

But Gettleman said the Panthers are in good position moving forward, citing the vast majority of the team's core players being under contract and the fact the team is "not in horrible shape" under next season's NFL salary cap.

He acknowledged that going 15-1 in the regular season and reaching the Super Bowl was "very unique," but was quick to add that the goal is to get refocused and next year reach the peak of the mountain.

"You can't sit here on your laurels because you went to the Super Bowl and just think you're going to go back again," Gettleman said.

He's right.

The last seven Super Bowl losers have returned to the playoffs the following season, but none have made it back to the big game.

In fact, the last to lose a Super Bowl and make it back the following year was the Buffalo Bills, who did three times in the early 1990s. The last time a team lost the Super Bowl and came back to win it all the following season was the Miami Dolphins in 1973.

Coach Ron Rivera wants to change all of that.

Rivera congratulated his players on a special season Tuesday before they packed their bags and headed out the door, then flipped the page forward to next season.

"The truth of the matter is that you would love to be in position that Denver is right now, celebrating, but we're not," Rivera said. "So going forward, there are 30 teams behind us and one in front of us. That's our goal -- if you want to be the champs, beat the champs. We've got to start planning and mapping and getting ready for next season, which we have."

That begins this week.

Rivera said he will take three days off before he and Gettleman and the scouting staff get together to begin discussing the roster.

Perhaps the two biggest questions the Panthers face is deciding whether to re-sign free agent cornerback Josh Norman (or use the franchise tag on him), and whether to release defensive ends Charles Johnson and Jared Allen, two potential moves that would free up more than $19 million in salary cap space combined

Gettleman refused to speculate on those or any other moves, saying he hasn't evaluated the roster and even if he had "I don't talk contracts."

All-Pro fullback Mike Tolbert will be an unrestricted free agent and wide receiver Jerricho Cotchery and safety Roman Harper have contracts that will void this offseason.

Defensive tackles Kawann Short, who was twice named NFC Defensive Player of the Month this season, is under contract through 2016 but the Panthers may look to extend his deal before training camp.

Rivera acknowledged the 2016 Panthers will look different than this year's team.

"That locker room will never be the same," Rivera said. "... I was in Chicago with the `85 team that went to the Super Bowl, and the `86 team was better statistically but we didn't win because we didn't have that same chemistry in the locker room. Things are going to change."

Some aren't.

Cam Newton will be around for a while after signing a five-year, $103.8 million contract extension last season. Tight end Greg Olsen, linebackers Luke Kuechly and Thomas Davis also got new deals last year.

The Panthers don't draft until 30th overall, but Gettleman said in some ways it will feel like the Panthers have a bonus first-round pick because Kelvin Benjamin, the team's best wide receiver, will be back after tearing his ACL last year in training camp.

Despite Benjamin's offense, the Panthers still led the league in scoring—although they managed just 10 points in the Super Bowl.

USOC to hire infectious disease specialists for Zika

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. Olympic Committee will hire two infectious disease specialists to advise potential Olympians who are worried about the Zika outbreak in Brazil.

USOC CEO Scott Blackmun sent a letter Wednesday to all possible Olympians, acknowledging the growing worries over the virus.

"I know that the Zika virus outbreak in Brazil is of concern to many of you," Blackmun wrote. "I want to emphasize that it is to us, as well, and that your well-being in Rio this summer is our highest priority."

The letter goes on to spell out much of the information that's already been relayed by the World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. The virus is spread by mosquitoes. About 20 percent of those infected display mild symptoms, including body aches and rash. But pregnant women and those considering getting pregnant have greater reason for concern because the virus can cause microcephaly, a birth defect marked by an abnormally small head.

In an interview with Sports Illustrated earlier this week, U.S. soccer goalkeeper Hope Solo said if the Olympics were being held now, she wouldn't go.

Blackmun told The Associated Press that Solo's comments "made us realize we need to provide concise and accurate info for our athletes."

At least one of the two infectious disease specialists will be a woman, Blackmun said.

In addition to those two hires, the USOC will post updates to its website at USOC.org/RioTravelUpdates.

The USOC's decision to hire the specialists was first reported by USA Today.

The letter, addressed to prospective members of the 2016 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic delegation, says "no matter how much we prepare there will always be risk associated with international competition. Each country, each venue and each discipline will present different risks and require different mitigation strategies."

Blackmun said the USOC is monitoring the frequent updates regarding Zika. The letter makes note that "rapid testing to determine if an individual is infected is expected in the near future."

"First and foremost, we want to make sure our athletes have accurate information because they're concerned," Blackmun said. "Based on what we know now, the primary threat is to unborn children."

The odds are high that Spieth enjoys Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Jordan Spieth rarely sees a shot as impossible, sometimes when he doesn't even have a club in his hand.

Walking off the 15th tee at Pebble Beach earlier this week, he noticed a golf ball that had gone well over the 14th green. Spieth offered to throw it back to the group behind him, only that would have been too simple.

"Give me some odds," he said to caddie Michael Greller.

The challenge was to throw the ball into the hole. He was 75 feet away looking down to a back pin on a green that sloped severely away from him. Impossible. Spieth cupped the ball in his left hand and flipped it underhanded, high and with backspin. It landed in the rough, hopped onto the green and ... missed by a few inches.

He also wanted odds on getting up-and-down from a plugged lie in the bunker to a short-sided pin at No. 8 (missed again).

Think back to last summer at St. Andrews when Spieth was going for the Grand Slam. After his third round Sunday, he engaged in a tense duel with Greller on who could throw a golf ball some 20 yards away into a carton on the practice range (Spieth made).

It's a way to laugh a lot and keep it light, and a big part of the Pebble Beach Pro-Am is all about that.

Some see this tournament as a burden.

The rounds can approach six hours because they are played in foursomes with amateurs. Saturday at Pebble Beach can be a distraction because it's all about the celebrities, like the time Bill Murray tossed an elderly woman into a bunker. The weather can be dicey (not this week).

Others see the Pebble Beach Pro-Am for what it is -- a week that brings together the professional and amateur game, sprinkled with the entertainment and corporate.

Spieth played his first year with Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo, and the last two with country star Jake Owen. Dustin Johnson plays with Wayne Gretzky, his future father-in-law. And nowhere else but Pebble will you see this on a tee sheet -- Tim Herron and Larry the Cable Guy.

"This week, it's so unique and it's so much fun," Spieth said. "I say that because of the pairings that I've had now the last four years. How can you not have fun? But as we're out there—Jake will tell you, he's seen me at the happiest and some of the most ... a couple of years ago I was tied for the lead with Jimmy Walker and three-putted Pebble seven times on Saturday.

"Yeah, that was a fun round," Owen said.

"So as much fun as we're having in between shots, I'm here to win this golf tournament," Spieth said. "And if we can win it together, even better. But I would rather take a win and us get second than for us to win and me get second."

Spieth appears to have a decent golfer at his side. Owen beat him in their match at Cypress Point on Tuesday (Spieth gave him nine shots). Owen, meanwhile, has been around Spieth enough to see him ask for odds and call a shot, and every now and then deliver on his pledge.

US wins Olympic qualifying opener

FRISCO, Texas—It took all of the 13 seconds to dispel any concerns and about 15 minutes to obliterate the remainder of the doubts.

Yes, the United States women's national team had gotten ensnared in a rapidly decaying collective bargaining agreement standoff with U.S. Soccer on the eve of Olympic qualifying, which will likely result in an acrimonious court case, but it took Alex Morgan just a few breaths to convert any frustration into goals. And after a quarter of an hour, the Americans were up by three on Costa Rica in their qualifying opener in Texas, and the deed was done on their way to a 5-0 win on Wednesday.

Over the next two weeks, the American world champions will do battle with their regional rivals for two spots in Rio de Janeiro this summer. But if Costa Rica was supposed to be a respectable opponent, it offered almost no resistance.

Within just a few touches of kicking off, the USA's Lindsay Horan hit a long ball to hero captain Carli Lloyd, who knocked it down for Morgan. She coolly finished at the near post—a play drawn up ahead of time, she would later say.

An eternal eight minutes later, Crystal Dunn was chopped down outside the Ticas' box on a dribble but tumbled into it and earned a penalty. Lloyd converted.

And after 15, Dunn, whose omission from the World Cup team still feels like a mistake, barged through a scramble for the ball in front of goal and eventually bundled it into the net.

It took the Americans a while to run up the score as they pressed Costa Rica high and effectively, rarely letting them out of their own half, but they seemed to lack the urgency to turn all that dominance into goals. But then, in the 62nd minute, Lloyd dinked a short cross to Morgan, who deftly slipped around her marker and dropped her header beyond the goalkeeper.

Finally, substitute Christen Press brought a chest-high ball down in the box with an otherworldly touch, spun and scored, hardly seeming cognizant of the sheer skill involved in that feat.

Four years ago, the Americans rumbled through this tournament with a perfect 5-0-0 record and a 38-0 scoring tally. They began that tournament with a 14-0 win over the Dominican Republic. Things weren't quite so lopsided this time around, but it isn't looking like this edition will be yielding a whole lot of tension either.

"We brought the fight and scored some great goals," Lloyd said after the game. "We've got to put this one to bed and move on and get ready for Mexico."

AP

United States forward Crystal Dunn (16) moves the ball against Costa Rica defender Maria Fernanda Barrantes during the first half of a CONCACAF Olympic qualifying tournament soccer match Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016, in Frisco, Texas.

The U.S. faces its southern neighbors on Saturday.

Meanwhile, a status conference is scheduled for March 3 in the lawsuit brought by the U.S. Soccer Federation against the union for the World-Cup winning U.S. national team over the existence and validity of a collective bargaining agreement.

The conference before U.S District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman is to set a schedule and will be procedural, Jeffrey Kessler, an attorney for the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team Players Association, said Tuesday.

The USSF sued last week to clarify its opinion that players have a collective bargaining agreement in force until Dec. 31—covering this year's Olympics. The union claims that such deal exists.

The union filed a motion on Monday in opposition of an expedited hearing, and the federation submitted a reply Monday night, claiming that the union had informed the USSF late last year that it was terminating the CBA with the right to "engage in actions" starting on Feb. 24.

Clippard says D-backs' potential drew him to Arizona

PHOENIX (AP)—Reliever Tyler Clippard says that Arizona's potential to contend for a title was a big reason he signed with the Diamondbacks.

"They've proven this offseason that they're taking the steps in the direction of becoming a championship organization," Clippard said during a conference call Tuesday, "which was something that was very high on my radar as far as the teams that I wanted to be with."

The right-hander, who turns 31 on Sunday, said he wanted "to be pretty sure on my end I was going to be with a really good team, and Arizona definitely is that."

Clippard agreed to a $12.25 million, two-year contract Monday, a move intended to add proven experience to the Diamondbacks' bullpen. He gets a $4 million signing bonus, payable in equal installments on April 1 this year and next. Clippard receives salaries of $4.1 million this year and $4.15 million in 2017.

Arizona was one of baseball's top offensive teams last season but pitching was a problem. The Diamondbacks addressed that in a big way by signing one of the game's best, Zack Greinke, to a $206 million, six-year deal, and trading for starter Shelby Miller from Atlanta.

Clippard joins a bullpen that's now fairly set with closer Brad Ziegler and relievers Daniel Hudson, Andrew Chafin, Randall Delgado and Josh Collmenter already pretty much assured spots on the roster. That leaves one, possibly two, bullpen slots open for competition this spring.

Clippard has been a setup man most of his career, including last season with the NL champion New York Mets after joining them in midseason. But he knows that role, which was held by the hard-throwing Hudson last season, won't necessarily be his in Arizona.

"At this point in my career I want to contribute on any level that the team needs me to contribute," he said, adding that it takes more than one or two pitchers to make a great bullpen.

Clippard said he's "pretty much done everything you can do in a bullpen" in his nine-year major league career.

"I mean, I started out as a long reliever," he said, "worked my way toward the back end of the bullpen the last three or four years, have pitched in the eighth-, ninth-inning roles. But I've pitched in the sixth, I've pitched in the seventh, I've pitched in the fourth, I've done it all."

Rocball league down to 6 teams

Four teams have been eliminated from this year's Rocball league, leaving six squads to battle for the championship.

The six remaining teams are the Rebels, Roc Wid It, Block Magic, Nangka Namu, and the Veterans, while Teachers, McNastys, A-Team, and MXD were booted out after dropping their first three games

The Originals are unbeaten in three games, while the Rebels, Roc Wid It, Block Magic, Nangka Namu, and the Veterans have similar 2-1 records.

Meanwhile, in the only game played last week, the Veterans juiced out and eliminated MXD from competition with a 55-29 victory. There were 13 aces, 2 xunks, 6 kees, and 3 goals scored in that game. Alfredo Guevara of the Veterans was the game's heavy hitter after tallying 13 points off 3 aces, 1 xunk, 1 kee, and a goal.

Meanwhile, three matches were scheduled this week with Block Magic set to duel Originals, Roc Wid It against Nangka Namu, and the Veterans versus the Rebels. ***(PR)***

RACE

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game against Ken Song before pulling off a 3-6, 6-4, 10-3 victory. Ren will be paired against the winner of the Villanueva-Steven Goodwin quarterfinal match, which will be played this Saturday. Goodwin earned the right to face the top-ranked Villanueva for the last semis ticket following a 6-1, 7-6 win over A.J. Hudkins last Saturday.

BLUE

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represented by 16 players and two coaches. It will play on Saipan for the first time, but the Japanese squad is no stranger to tough games, having won a tournament organized by Mainichi com.net company this year.

To prepare for their two exhibition games and boost their chances to win, Sekiguchi said their training sessions this week are focused on offense.

"We want to score effectively. I will change some players to check their level and condition during the game," said Sekiguchi, who listed 19 players on the Blue Ayuyus roster when they played against Aries FC last Saturday. The visiting team won the match, 2-1.

Sekiguchi also held a 3,200m time trial for the pool yesterday at the Oleai track oval to test their speed and endurance.

"In a game, you may have the skill, but if you're stamina is weak and you're slow, your opponent can still beat you," the Blue Ayuyus coach said.

The series of exhibition games against Japanese teams were scheduled to prepare the CNMI Men's National Team for the East Asian Football Federation East Asian Cup 2016 Preliminary Round 1, which will be held in July with the venue yet to be announced.

Meanwhile, Japan Soccer College and Chuo University Countries will also duel in an exhibition match on Feb. 17 at 10am at the Oleai pitch. Then in the afternoon at 5pm, it will be the turn of the Saipan All-Stars to face Japan Soccer College.

Kiyoshi will play on the Saipan selection and will be joined by Jershwin Angeles, Martin Jambor, Young Ju Lee, Gil Chomg Koo, Jacky Lee, Peter Loken, Panapa Peteru, Ajani Burrell, Arkie Reusora, Suguru Takahashi, Clayton Izuka, Junsik Kim, and Feng Chun Jin. Some members of the CNMI training pool who will not be able to play in the Feb. 16 match will be fielded against Japan Soccer College in the Feb. 17 game.

CLOSE

From Page 36

high 19 points and hit two crucial triples in the fourth quarter to help Shirley's send the game in overtime. Dexter Villanueva chipped in 18, while Rommel Usi added 16, and Dela Rosa contributed 13.

Don Brennan paced Ace with his 14 markers, but he was held to only 2 points in the fourth quarter, while Sid Quan contributed 13.

In the other game last Sunday, JP World/Mobil also recorded a close win against 360 Restaurant, 65-63.

Lerio Pagarao and Rolly Paraiso teamed up for JP World/Mobil in the homestretch with the former nailing 5 straight points and the latter scoring the go-ahead basket.

It was a come-from-behind win for JP World/Mobil as it faced a 44-50 deficit entering the final canto. In the fourth frame, Marlon Sison earned 5 early points to spark the fightback and three of his teammates also hit the board before Pagarao and Paraiso hit the clutch baskets to give JP World/Mobil a 3-0 record.

Five JP World/Mobil posted at least 6 points apiece for the team's balance attack, while 360 leaned heavily on J.R. Agbanlog, who logged 22 points.

Meanwhile, the Emon Lodge caging started its weekday games last Wednesday with GPPC and Blue Haus prevailing in their respective matches.

GPPC routed Armatech, 68-52, for its second win, while Blue Haus topped 360 Restaurant, 73-69.

GPPC set up the 16-point victory as it started dominating the game in the second quarter. GPPC was just clinging to a 14-12 lead at the end of the first canto, but established a twin-digit advantage after the second frame, 33-22, behind the combined 17 points of Randy Mungcal and Alex Ocampo.

Mungcal and Ocampo's teammates then made their contributions in the second half to keep GPPC's safe distance, while only James Abuy and Bruce Berline were consistent on offense for Armatech, which dropped to a 0-2 record.

2016 SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Lennosuke Susuki moves out of the water during last Saturday's 2016 SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim at the Pacific Islands Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants and volunteers in the 2016 SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim pose for a photo before the race starts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jinnosuke Suzuki runs to the finish line.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dino Sato is out of the water.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Taiga Sato heads to the finish line

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ayaka Sato smiles as she runs to the shore to finish the one-loop course.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Will Schroeder smiles as he is about to finish the race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Atsuko Sato runs to the shore.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The three swimmers entered in the 200m event wait for the start of the race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Swim Club swimmers chat after completing the three-loop race.

Kobe, LeBron share court as Cavs beat Lakers

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Sports

Panthers turn page to 2016 after Super Bowl loss

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Race, Lee lead q'finals cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI coach Jeff Race and junior player Allan Lee swept Jim Tuttle and Riko Ojima, 6-0, 6-4, to march into the quarterfinals of the mixed-up doubles event in the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club court.

With the victory, Race and Allan set up a Round of 8 duel against the pair of Peter Loken and Eugene Park at the upper half of the draw. Loken and Park also prevailed against Vincent Tudela and Sam Ryu after two sets, 6-1, 6-3, to move into the quarterfinal round which will be played this weekend.

In the other quarterfinal pairing at the top half of the draw, it will be Moris Villanueva and Asia Raulerson against the tandem of Ryan Cho and Daniel Kang. Villanueva and Raulerson advanced following a 6-3, 6-2 win against Gary Ramsey and Maria Gregoire, while Cho and Kang eliminated Alex Martin and Jeffrey Seo, 6-2, 6-3.

In the lower of the draw, the quarterfinal cast is composed of Carol Lee and Ericka Tuttle, Robbie Schorr and Grace Choi, Tony Kim and Coume Kaga, and Martin Jambor and Conatsu Kaga. The Kaga siblings arranged their quarterfinal showdown after Coume and Kim defeated Marivic Rosario and Sean Lee, 6-1, 4-6, 10-6, and Conatsu and Jambor beat Dylan Ackerman and Seung Jin Paik, 6-0, 7-5.

Carol and Ericka also took only two sets to down Colin Ramsey and Rei Sekiguchi, 6-2, 6-1, and force a quarterfinals showdown against Choi and Schorr, who took the long route to the next round following a 5-7, 6-2, 10-6 victory against Mihoko Tuttle and Ji Min Woo.

Meanwhile, Michael Ren, Colin Ramsey, and Schorr made it to the semifinals of the boys U16 singles event after ousting their respective foes over the weekend.

Schorr knocked out Tony Kim, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) to arrange a semis tiff against Ramsey, who swept Vincent Tudela, 6-2, 6-4. Ren, on the other hand, played an extended

See RACE on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Allan Lee, left, slices a backhand, while teammate Jeff Race looks on during their mixed-up doubles match against Jim Tuttle and Riko Ojima in the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Close victories for Shirley's, JP World/Mobil

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop needed five extra minutes to thwart Ace Hardware, 67-61, during their game in the 2016 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood/IT&E Basketball League last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

Perry Inos lifted Shirley's to the overtime win after scoring 5 of the team's 7 points in the extension. Erick Dela Rosa registered the 2 other markers for Shirley's in the extra period, while Leo Galarse made the lone point for Ace Hardware, which absorbed its first loss in three games. Shirley's remained unbeaten after two matches.

Inos finished with a game-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Edwin Santos, center, challenges the defense of Andrew Ashburn, left, and Michael Cabanas during the third quarter of their game in the Emon Lodge caging last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

Blue Ayuyus pressed to win vs Japanese teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and CNMI coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi said they are gunning for victories in their exhibition matches against two Japanese teams next week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

"Our goal is to win the games. We have to improve our offense and defense as well," Sekiguchi said.

Sekiguchi and the CNMI Men's National Team training pool will be facing first the Japan Soccer College on Feb. 16 at 4:30pm before challenging the Chuo University Countries on Feb. 18 also at 4:30pm at the Oleai pitch.

The Japan Soccer College players are frequent visitors to Saipan and they played against the CNMI Boys U18 National Team last year, losing a close match, 1-2. This year, the visiting team from Niigita Prefecture is bringing in 26 players, two coaches, one trainer, and one coordinator.

Chuo University Countries, on the other hand, is

See BLUE on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI Men's National Team training pool members participate in the 3,200m time trial as part of their training session yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex.